



The Cathedral Church of
SAINT PETER *and*

THE HOLY AND INDIVISIBLE TRINITY

Gloucester

The Holy Eucharist

Christ the King

Sunday, 23 November 2025

10.15 a.m.

The Nave

Safeguarding at Gloucester Cathedral

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 a safeguarding concern here at Gloucester Cathedral, you should email: safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



Personal photography and videography are not permitted during services.



An induction loop is available for those using hearing aids.



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

Welcome

A very warm welcome to Gloucester Cathedral, whether you are joining us on site or online. All you need for the service is included in this booklet and you are invited to join in the words printed in **bold**. When the congregation is invited to stand, please feel free to remain seated if this is more comfortable for you. Families and children are warmly welcome. Please feel able to move around in the North or South Aisle if you need to. An easy access toilet and changing facilities are available in the Cloister.

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 L'HORA PASSA BY LUDOVICO DA VIADANA

The president is the Archdeacon of Gloucester
The Venerable Hilary Dawson

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

About the Eucharist

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.

Today’s service has four important elements. Firstly, the **GATHERING** draws the community together in the name of the Trinity, reminding us of our true identity as children of God. We then recall our failings in the *Prayers of Penitence*; this is an important part of our efforts to become more Christlike. We always do this in the certain knowledge that God forgives our sins, and this is made plain in the words of the absolution, given by the president. The *Gloria in excelsis*, a hymn of praise addressed to God, follows as a joyful response to God’s mercy. The *Collect* brings this part of the service to a close, drawing everyone together in a special prayer, said in all churches across the world.

The **LITURGY OF THE WORD** invites us to engage with the words of Scripture and consider what they might mean in our own lives. The *Gospel Reading* is the high point of this part of the service, for in these words we hear of the life of Jesus. A *sermon* follows, which aims to assist us in our application of God’s Word. The *Prayers of Intercession* then give us an opportunity to bring our concerns to God in the certain knowledge that God hears and answers prayer.

The **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST** begins with the *Peace*. In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that before we offer our gifts at the altar, we should be reconciled to one another, because the Eucharist is the meal which unites the Church. Then the altar is prepared for the *Eucharistic Prayer*, which is a thanksgiving for all that God has done in creation. The president then recalls the Last Supper, using the words of Jesus himself, thereby consecrating or making special the bread and wine. The congregation comes forward to receive communion or a blessing, which is followed by a prayer of thanksgiving.

The **CONCLUSION** brings the whole service to a close with a *blessing* and *dismissal*, reminding us that God is with us always and sends us out into the world so that others may come to know his love too.

¶ The Gathering

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



**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
Those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Words, Matthew Bridges 1800-1894

Revelation 19.12

Tune, DIADEMATA; G. J. Elvey 1816-1893

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 be with you

All **and also with you.**

The president gives a welcome and introduces the service.

The Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon says

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Matthew 4.17

All **O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.**

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 with the bidding

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

New Testament Reading

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

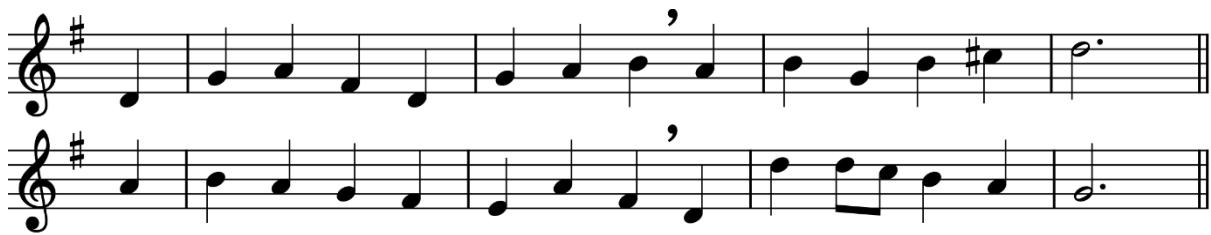
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

1.11-20

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands to sing



**The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light.**

**The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love
and grants his name to know.**

**To them, the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given:
their name an everlasting name,
their joy, the joy of heaven.**

**They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

**The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.**

Words, Thomas Kelly 1769-1855

Hebrews 2.10

Tune, ST MAGNUS; Jeremiah Clarke c.1673-1707

Gospel Reading

The choir sings the acclamation and all repeat

A - lle - lu - ia. A - lle - lu - ia. A - lle - lu - ia.

You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry,

the e - ter - nal Son of the Fa - ther.

A - lle - lu - ia. A - lle - lu - ia. A - lle - lu - ia.

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 they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

18.33-43

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.**

The Prayers of Intercession

The president says

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications
to the throne of grace.

The congregation sits.

After each prayer, the response is used

May your kingdom come;

All **Lord, hear our prayer.**

At the end, the president says

Loving God,

you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.

Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;

to him be glory and power for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Welcome and Peace

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

cf Colossians 3.14,15

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

You can contribute to the ministry and mission of the Cathedral by using the Q.R. code, placing a cash gift in the collection plate after the service (in a Gift Aid envelope if possible), or using one of the contactless card machines.



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



**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For thou art with me, and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.**

*Words, Scottish Psalter 1650
Tune, CRIMOND; Melody by David Grant 1833-93*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

When the altar is prepared, the president says

Blessed be God,
who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
May we feed upon the bread of God
and drink the royal wine of heaven.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The president recalls God's mighty acts

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness

you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty

a kingdom of truth and life,

a kingdom of holiness and grace,

a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels

and all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join 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,
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:



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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Peter, Benedict, Kyneburga, 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.



The congregation sits.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

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.**

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 best 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 Angus 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.

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

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

*O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

The Choir sings the Communion motet

O God, the King of glory,
which hast exalted thy only son Jesus Christ
With great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven;
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,
but send to us thine Holy Ghost, to comfort us
And exalt us unto the same place
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before;
Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God
World without end now and evermore.
Amen.

*Words, Collect for the Sunday after Ascension from the Book of Common Prayer.
Music, Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625*

Prayer after Communion

The president introduces a period of silent prayer

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **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.

¶ *The Dismissal*

The congregation stands to sing



**‘The kingdom is upon you!’
the voice of Jesus cries,
fulfilling with the message
the wisdom of the wise;
it lightens with fresh insight
the striving human mind,
creating new dimensions
of faith for all to find.**

**‘God’s kingdom is upon you!’
the message sounds today,
it summons every pilgrim
to take the questing way,
with eyes intent on Jesus,
our leader and our friend,
who trod faith’s road before us,
and trod it to the end.**

**The kingdom is upon us!
Stirred by the Spirit’s breath,
we glory in its freedom
from emptiness and death;
we celebrate its purpose,
its mission and its goal,
alive with the conviction
that Christ can make us whole.**

*Words, Robert Willis b.1947
Tune, WOLVERCOTE; W. H. Ferguson 1874-1950*

The Blessing

The president says

Christ our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
+ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The congregation remains standing for the procession.

The organist plays

Fantasia prima sopra un soggetto

Girolamo Frescobaldi 1583-1643

Investing in Gloucester Cathedral

Our ability to sustain the Cathedral's worship and mission relies on the generous investment of our worshippers and visitors. You can contribute today by using the Q.R. code, placing a cash gift in the collection plate after the service (in a Gift Aid envelope if possible), or using one of the contactless card machines.



Please make a Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. This allows the Cathedral to claim an additional 25 per cent of each amount donated. Higher rate taxpayers can claim further relief via their tax returns.

Planned giving is a convenient way of making a regular contribution and it is the least costly to administer. You can use a standing order from your bank account. For more information or to discuss your planned giving in confidence, call 01452 528095 or email development@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Notices

Gloucester Cathedral Community Advent Quiet Day: Waiting and Expectation Saturday 29 November, 10.00am – 4.00pm at St Lawrence Parish Centre, Barnwood

Whether new to taking a spiritual retreat or very experienced, all members of the Cathedral Community are invited. This day away together provides the gift of time for relaxation, reflection, prayer and listening to God's promptings in the silence. A day to set aside the busyness that distracts us and steals from us those good intentions to spend more time in prayer and meditation, reflecting on the Advent journey. Time apart which points us to the waiting, the expectations and the wonders in which this time of year is steeped. Waiting helps us to be patient and live with the mystery of not knowing and simply living with hope. Waiting may also be anxious, waiting for bad news, when all we can do is just be, to live with mystery and wait patiently grasping at hope, knowing that there is life and love waiting for us somewhere in the future.

Led by members of the congregational community, in our structured times together we will reflect on Advent themes of Waiting and Expectation, explore ways of praying, using imaginative meditation and listening to God in the silence. There will also be the opportunity in free time to use art materials, explore the beautiful neighbouring arboretum, and sign up for a time to speak with Dean Andrew, our Chaplain for the day. It's your quiet day – you chose how you spend it!

Spaces are limited. To book your place and more information, please speak to Susanna Morris or email congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk Suggested donation £20 (includes buffet lunch and hot drinks).

Advent Procession: from Darkness to Light Sunday 30 November, 6.00pm

All are warmly welcome to mark the start of the Advent season with our 'Darkness to Light' Procession. The service begins at the West End of the Nave, the place of the setting sun, and moves towards the East End, the place of dawn, symbolising the light of Christ coming into the world. Processions, outside and inside churches, form some of the earliest drama and are an expression of the Christian belief that we are a people always on the move, journeying towards the day when God's kingdom will come and all will be made new. To underline both the processional and communal nature of this service, the chairs in the Nave will be in the collegiate arrangement, as they are in the Quire, so that everyone can appreciate the movement of the whole service. This arrangement will be done on Sunday afternoon, following the 10.15am Eucharist so that our regular worship is unaffected.

Gloucester Cathedral Advent Course: Scripture and Art

All are warmly welcome this Advent to step into some of the personal encounters of the familiar nativity story, as told by the Gospel writers and illustrated by some of the world's most talented artists. Set in the context of community and prayer over three weeks, we will await together the coming of Jesus and reflect on what this means for our daily lives in 2025. We will engage with scripture through the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* (*Divine Reading in Latin*) and continue our meditation by reflecting on pieces of art (*Visio Divina*). The Latin names can sound a bit distant or formal, but the practices themselves are simple, warm, and deeply personal ways of letting God speak to the heart. The team of lay and ordained course facilitators will guide all who attend through the processes step by step. Whether you're new to these practices or returning to them, come with curiosity, gentleness, and a willingness to be surprised by God's presence. The course is available to take part in person or online.

Onsite: Sundays following the 10.15am Eucharist (30th November, 7th and 14th December). 11.45am-1.00pm, in the Chapter House with hot drinks and cake.

Online: Tuesdays (2nd, 9th and 16th December) on Zoom at 7.30pm followed by Compline at 8.30pm.

Please register by email, stating whether you wish to attend onsite or online: congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

A brief introduction to *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina*

"In Lectio Divina, we do not seek so much to enlighten the mind or to move the will. Rather we seek the immediate experience of God. We seek to be present to God, who is present in his inspired Word, and let him speak directly to us. It is a direct, immediate encounter with our friend, our Guide, our teacher, whom we love." - Basil Pennington

This year's Advent Course at Gloucester Cathedral offers an opportunity to slow down and listen for God's voice through ancient practices rooted in Judeo-Christian traditions: *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina*. *Lectio Divina* is gentle way of praying with Scripture. The Latin name can sound a bit distant or formal, but the practice itself is simple, warm, and deeply personal—a way of letting God's Word speak to the heart. It's not about analysing Scripture, but about allowing God's Word to speak personally and tenderly to us. There's no pressure to "get it right." *Lectio Divina* is simply about being open—allowing Scripture to become a conversation rather than a task.

Alongside *Lectio Divina*, we'll also explore using *Visio Divina*—"divine seeing"—a similar practice to *Lectio* that uses art or images instead of words to help us encounter God in fresh and creative ways. Using these ancient practices, we will reflect together in fresh ways on the encounters of some of the characters of the familiar nativity story. No previous experience is necessary. Our course facilitators will guide all who attend through the processes step by step. Whether you're new to these practices or returning to them, come with curiosity, gentleness, and a willingness to be surprised by God's presence. Each week, we'll read, reflect, respond, and rest in God's presence together—creating space for Christ to be born anew in us. For further exploration, a book others have found useful is *Lectio Divina: The Sacred Art. Transforming words and images into heart-centred prayer*. By Christine Valters Painter. SPCK Publishing.

Prayers for Peace and Justice
Tuesday 2 December, 12.00 noon, the Lady Chapel

Prayers for Peace and Justice are offered for about 20 minutes on the first Tuesday of each month in the Lady Chapel and online using Zoom. You are warmly invited to join these prayers and contribute your own prayers, silently or spoken, about issues of peace and justice. To join online, please email Cathedral Reception to request the Zoom link: reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

On Tuesday 2 December, we will continue to offer prayers for the restoration of a lasting and just peace to the many areas of conflict. We will also offer prayers for human rights as Human Rights Day falls on 10 December. If you wish to submit a prayer, email Canon Rebecca: clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Community Coffee Morning
Wednesday 3 December, 10.30am – 11.30am, The Monk's Kitchen

Join us for coffee and a friendly chat in the Monk's Kitchen. Contact Barbara Merrick on 01452 504376 or email congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk for more information.

Cathedral Book Club
Monday 8 December 2025, 2.00pm – 3.00pm, The Laud Room

The next meeting of the Book Club is on Monday 8th December in the Laud room, starting at 1.30pm. There will be a Christmas social lunch followed by a discussion of "The Bookseller of Inverness" by SG Mclean. Please bring your own lunch or snack.

Sip and Study: Cathedral Community Lectio Group
Tuesday 9 December 2025, 2.30pm, Prinknash Abbey

The Cathedral's Sip and Study group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Prinknash Abbey, following the ancient process of Lectio Divina to reflect on a passage of Scripture. Anyone is welcome to come along; you don't need prior experience as we learn the process through experiencing it. Lectio begins at 2.30 p.m. and finishes at 3.45 p.m. but we arrive any time from 1.00 p.m. for lunch or coffee and cake together in the café. Contact Barbara Merrick on 01452 504376, or congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Christmas at Gloucester Cathedral

This Advent and Christmas, you are invited to come and enjoy this special season filled with *comfort and joy* at Gloucester Cathedral. Our festive programme is full of worship, music and family-friendly events, offering opportunities to remember the birth of Jesus and to make special memories together. From regular worshippers to visitors coming for the first time, you are all warmly welcome here to experience the joy and peace of this sacred season.

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 30 November at 6.00pm

Journey with us from darkness to light as we begin our preparations for the birth of Christ, in this candlelit service of words and music.

Family Carol Services

Tuesday 23 December,

Wednesday 24 December at 2.30pm

Our Family Carol Services are among the most loved events in our calendar, as people of all ages sing together our favourite carols and tell the story of Christ's birth.

Cathedral Carol Service

Sunday 21 December

Monday 22 December

Tuesday 23 December at 6.00 pm

A traditional service of lessons and carols with music from our world class choirs.

An additional service has been added in response to popular demand. As space is limited, seating will be first-come, first-served. Please arrive early.

Midnight Mass

Wednesday 24 December at 11.15pm

An atmospheric celebration of Holy Communion with carols, to mark the start of Christmas Day. The preacher will be the Dean of Gloucester.

Christmas Day Eucharist

Thursday 25 December at 10.15am

All are welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at this joyful Eucharist. The preacher will be the Bishop of Gloucester.

Eucharist for Epiphany

Sunday 4 January, 10.15am

Celebrate the visit of the Three Kings to the baby Jesus and welcome the new year with this special revelation of Christ to the world.

Candlemas Carol Service

Sunday 1 February, 6.00pm

Mirroring our Advent Service, we move from East to West proclaiming Christ's light to the waiting world.



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