

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL

The Holy Eucharist
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 26 April 2026
10.15 a.m.
The Nave

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



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 (‘SPATZENMESSE’) BY W. A. MOZART

The president is the Director of Mission and Ministry
The Reverend Canon Dr Sandra Millar

The preacher is the Canon Chancellor
The Reverend Canon Dr Rebecca Lloyd

¶ *The Gathering*

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



1. At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.
2. At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders,
in their great array.
3. Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners,
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious,
when from death he passed:
4. Name him, Christians, name him,
with love as strong as death,
but with awe and wonder
and with bated breath:
he is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted, and adored.
5. Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

*Words, Caroline M. Noel 1817-77
Tune, EVELYNS; W. H. Monk 1823-1889*

The president says

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

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The president gives a welcome and introduces the service.

Prayers 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

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

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 caelestis,
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, saying

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he 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 the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

2.42-end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands to sing

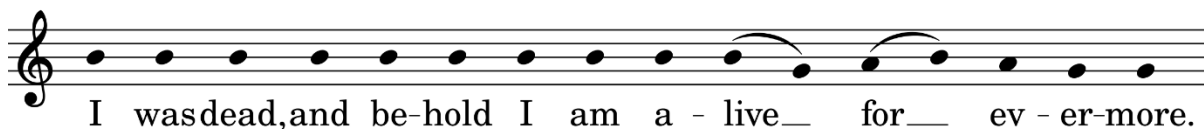
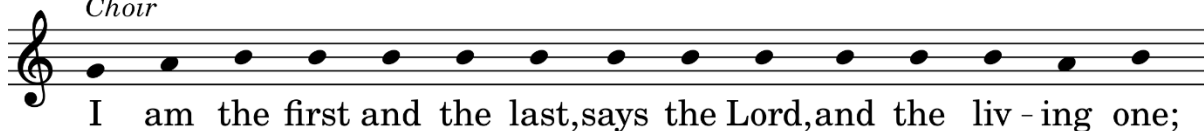


Gospel Reading

The choir sings the acclamation and all repeat



Choir

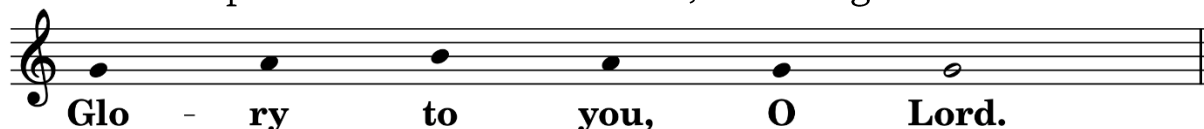


All



When the Gospel is announced, the deacon says

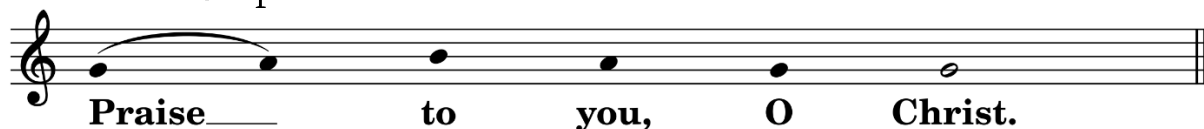
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.



‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

10.1-10

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

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,

bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry ...

and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,

be with us and all who follow you in the way ...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth

and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,

recover the straggler,

bind up the injured,

strengthen the sick

and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,

we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...

Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

All in your mercy, hear us,

accept our prayers, and be with us always.

Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The congregation stands.

The president introduces the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

John 20.19-20

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



**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast’:
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink, and live’:
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
‘I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright’:
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

Words, Horatius Bonar 1808-1889

*Tune, KINGSFOLD; English folksong from *English Country Songs* 1893*

Taking of the Bread and Wine

When the altar is prepared, the president says

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All **Amen.**

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 him 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,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men, women and children the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

The choir sings

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus	<i>Holy, holy, holy,</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>Lord God of power and might,</i>
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.	<i>Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui venit	<i>Blessed is he who comes</i>
in nomine Domini.	<i>in the name of the Lord.</i>
Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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.

The deacon says

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

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray

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.

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcie Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

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

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

*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

Ave verum corpus,
natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine,
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

*Hail, true body,
born of the Virgin Mary,
who having truly suffered, was
sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
whose pierced side
flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste
in the trial of death.*

*Words; Attributed to Pope Innocent VI
Music; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-91*

Prayer after Communion

The president introduces a period of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

¶ *The Dismissal*

The congregation stands to sing



**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be:**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand has provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love:**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Words, Thomas Chisholm 1866-1960

Tune, GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS; W. M. Runyan 1870-1957

The Blessing

The president says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
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 the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The congregation remains standing as the choir and ministers depart.

The organist plays

Praeludium in C (BuxWV 137)

Dietrich Buxtedude 1637-1707

The cathedral receives no state funding or support from the central church: we rely on the generosity of our visitors, pilgrims and worshippers for our mission and ministry.

If you are able to give to that work, it would be gratefully received. You can do so by leaving a cash donation or using one of the contactless payment machines.

You can make a regular donation through Planned Giving. For more information, please email development@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider making a Gift Aid declaration. 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.

Notices

Kathleen Hands RIP

We are sorry to bring you the news of the death of Kath, a stalwart member of our weekday and Sunday Eucharist congregation. Her funeral will take place on Friday 1 May at 11.00 a.m. at St Katherine's Matson.

Cathedral Community Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6 May, 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

The Michael Perham University and Cathedral Lecture 2026

Wednesday 6 May, 7.00p.m., in the University Chapel, Francis Close Hall, Cheltenham, GL50, 4AZ. Pay and display parking available at the campus.

“Education, Justice and Spirituality: is spirituality the missing ingredient to our underperforming education and justice systems?” presented by the Reverend Canon Steve Chalke MBE, founder of the Oasis Trust.

Steve is a distinguished author, speaker, former UN Special Advisor on Human Trafficking, and Baptist minister. In 1985, he founded the Oasis Trust, a leading charity dedicated to building inclusive local communities. Today, Oasis operates across multiple countries, providing housing, education, healthcare, and various community-building initiatives. In England, Oasis runs 56 schools and recently opened Oasis Restore, the UK's first Secure School - a groundbreaking therapeutic alternative to youth prisons designed to support high-risk children and young people in the justice system. Steve is also a regular media commentator, and his latest book is called *A Manifesto for Hope*.

Prayers for Peace and Justice

Tuesday 5 May, 12.00 noon, Lady Chapel and WhatsApp

Twenty minutes of spoken and silent prayer for issues of peace and justice. The principal focus will be the work of Christian Aid as Christian Aid week runs from 10 to 17 May. To join using WhatsApp email reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk with your mobile phone number and, to submit a prayer, email clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Cathedral Book Club

Monday 11 May, 2.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m., Laud Room

This month we will meet for a discussion of *Regeneration* by Pat Barker.

Sip and Study: Cathedral Lectio Group

Tuesday 12 May, 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 Dorothy Marshall congregation@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Ascension Day Eucharist

Thursday 14 May, 7.00 a.m.

All are welcome to join us for the Ascension Day Eucharist, as we come together on the 40th day after Easter to commemorate the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. As is tradition, the choir will ascend the tower following the service to sing over the city.

Cathedral Baptisms and Confirmations

Pentecost Sunday, 24 May, 10.15 a.m.

As ever, Bishop Rachel will be with us on Pentecost Sunday to baptise and confirm members of our congregation. Preparation for young people (school years 8 – 13) will be offered by Canon Craig; preparation for adults will be offered by Dean Andrew. Children below school year 8 are welcome to prepare for baptism and admission to Holy Communion. If you would like to be prepared, please email clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

