

The Gathering



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.**

**Glassed in a sea of light,
where everlasting waves
reflect his throne-the Infinite!
Who lives and loves and saves.**

Matthew Bridges (1800-94)

The Gathering



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GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

OPENING RESPONSES

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts
of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessed be God
our strength and our salvation
now and for ever.
Amen.

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GLORIA

*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 coelestis,
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.*

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COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child-bearing
of blessed Mary:
grant that we,
who have seen your glory
revealed in our human nature
and your love
made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern
of 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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word



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THE OLD TESTAMENT

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61. 10-end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Liturgy of the Word



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MAGNIFICAT

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

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

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

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

The Liturgy of the Word



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HOLY GOSPEL

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

The Liturgy of the Word



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And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God
my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour
on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on
all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great
things for me, and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful
from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good
things, and sent the rich away empty.

The Liturgy of the Word



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He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise
he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants
for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for
about three months and then
returned to her home.

Luke 1. 39-55

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Liturgy of the Word



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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 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.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament



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PEACE

We are the Body of Christ.
**By one Spirit,
we are baptised into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
**We are bound by the love of
Christ.**

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

*[www.justgiving.com/campaign/
ChesterCathedral](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/ChesterCathedral)*

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Lord, accept our gifts
and make them the sacrament of our
salvation.

By its power warm our hearts
with the love of the Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church,
and join us more closely
with her in sharing the redeeming
work of her Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament



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ANTHEM

View me Lord

Charles Wood

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God Most High, whose handmaid bore
the Word made flesh:
we thank you that in this sacrament
of our redemption you visit us with
your Holy Spirit
and overshadow us by your power;
strengthen us to walk with Mary, the
joyful path of obedience
and so to bring forth the fruits of
holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal



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BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his
promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always. **Amen.**

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

The Dismissal

HYMN



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**Mary of the incarnation,
youthful mother of her King,
listening, trusting,
travelling, working:
see her wonder, hear her sing!
O for such a mind as Mary's,
sharing memory, word and sign,
quick to learn, by speech or silence,
where the water flows as wine!**

**Mary of the resurrection,
true disciple, Spirit-born:
all her joy is God her Saviour;
blessed is she who learned to
mourn!
O for such a faith as Mary's,
life that death cannot erase,
greeting new-found brothers,
sisters,
one in Christ for prayer and praise!**

Christopher M Idle (born 1938)

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