

RIPON  
CATHEDRAL

**Sung Eucharist**

Holy Innocents

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

10.30am

## Welcome to Ripon Cathedral

Welcome to Ripon Cathedral for this act of worship. Christian worship has taken place on this site since Wilfrid built the first church here in 672AD. The crypt of that original church still survives and is the oldest part of any English cathedral and regular prayer has taken place there over 1350 years.

Built on the firm foundation of that heritage, the Cathedral today continues to proclaim the Christian faith, with daily prayer and active service in Jesus' name.

If you would like to find out more about how the cathedral community is seeking to grow God's Kingdom in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, please visit our website. Regular updates of all that we are involved in and our worship are posted on our Facebook page and we tweet regularly using "@riponcathedral".

## Sitting, kneeling, standing

As human beings, we worship with our bodies as well as through our music and prayers. This order of service invites you to sit, kneel or stand as appropriate. Please see these as merely invitations and adopt the posture you find most comfortable.

Large print versions of the Order of Service are available. Please ask those who welcomed you if you would like one.



*giftaid it*



## Giving to support the work of the Cathedral

Stewardship of all the gifts that God has given is a part of Christian discipleship. Giving is a part of that, and the support of charities and the church is an important part of that in terms of time, talent and money. We would encourage you in your stewardship, offering the following easy ways to support the work of the Cathedral:

- use the collection bags or plates;
- use the card terminals;
- for bank transfers Account Name: The Chapter of Ripon Cathedral Sort Code: 40 38 23 Account Number: 91067737
- To support the Development Trust use this QR code.



## Welcome to this service

Herod 'the Great' was appointed King of the Jews by the Roman authorities in Palestine and he proved to be ruthlessly efficient in his thirty-three years of dealing with his subjects. In Matthew's gospel, he tried to persuade the Magi, to whom he played the host on their journey seeking the one 'who has been born king of the Jews', to bring word of where they had found him. His desire was to eliminate Jesus and, when he realised that the Magi had tricked him and left the country, Herod poured out his wrath on all the male infants in the land. These were God's 'innocent' ones, paralleling the story of Pharaoh slaughtering the Hebrew children in Egypt.

## About this service

The President is the Canon Pastor, The Revd Canon Wendy Dalrymple.

The Preacher is The Canon Chancellor, The Revd Canon Matthew Pollard.

The service is sung by the visiting choir Med-Dec-Can to the *Mass for Choir and Congregation* by Tim Harper (*b. 1986*). The choir is conducted by Tim Harper and the organist is Archie Davies.

The Cathedral bells are rung by the Ripon Cathedral Guild of Bellringers.

The flowers are provided by the Ripon Cathedral Flower Guild.

## Children at Ripon Cathedral

There is no Children's Church today. It begins again on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## Safeguarding



Ripon Cathedral is committed to the safety and wellbeing of everyone, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns about your own or another's welfare, please report to the Cathedral Safeguarding Team via the QR code or speak to the member of clergy leading the service today.

You can also contact our Cathedral Safeguarding team on 01765 643889 or via [safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@riponcathedral.org.uk) The Leeds Diocesan Safeguarding Team are available Monday to Friday and can be contacted on: 0113 353 0257 or via [safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@leeds.anglican.org.uk)

For more information about Safeguarding at Ripon Cathedral visit [www.riponcathedral.org.uk/safeguarding](http://www.riponcathedral.org.uk/safeguarding)  
*Words of welcome from the Canon in Residence.*



## 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.**

## Prayer of Penitence

Deacon

On this day when we recall the murder of innocent lives,  
let us stand before our just and holy God,  
and remembering the violence and injustice of our world,  
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

President

You are the God of the weak and the vulnerable.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

President

You judge the tyrant and the cruel.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All*

**Christ, have mercy.**

President

You wipe away the tears of the broken-hearted.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All*

**Lord, have mercy.**

## The Absolution

President

God the Father forgive you  
by the death of his Son  
and strengthen you  
to live in the power of the Spirit  
all your days.

*All*

**Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*The cantor sings and all repeat:*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est,



and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, hea - ven - ly King,



Al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther,



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks,



We praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take a - way the sin of the world,

Have mer - cy on us.

You are sea-ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther,

Re - ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One,

You a - lone are the Lord,

You a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi-rit,

In the glo - ry of God the... Fa - ther,

A - - - men.

## The Collect

President      Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong;  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
and establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
*All*              **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

*Jeremiah 31.15-17*

*All*              This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn

**Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation.**

**Cradled in a stall was he  
with sleepy cows and asses;  
but the very beasts could see  
that he all men surpasses.**

**Herod then with fear was filled:  
'A prince', he said, 'in Jewry!'  
And all the little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury.**

**Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder.**

*NEH 39*

*Words: Latin, Moosburg Gradual c 1360 tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)*

*Music: PUER NOBIS from Piae Cantiones 1582*

## **The Gospel**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the Deacon reading the Gospel.*

*The choir sings, then all repeat:*



Cantor Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations:  
and believed in throughout the world.

*All* **Alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped,

they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'

*Matthew 2.8-13*

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

*The organist improvises as the Gospel party returns.*

## The Sermon

*Please sit at the invitation of the preacher.*

*After the sermon, please stand with the president.*

## Affirmation of faith

President Let us affirm, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

*All* Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?  
**We believe and trust in him.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?  
*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

President Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?  
*All* **We believe and trust in him.**

President This is the faith of the Church.  
*All* **This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in one God,**  
**Father. Son and Holy Spirit.**

## Prayers of Intercession

President In peace let us pray to the God of love.

*Please sit.*

Intercessor Righteous God,  
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ dwelt among us  
and shared our grief and our pain.

We pray for the children of our world,  
that they may grow up knowing love and security.

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for all children who suffer physical or mental abuse.

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for all communities in our world  
who live with the memories of massacre and gross cruelty.

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for all who are corrupted by power  
and who regard human life as cheap.

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for parents who have suffered the death of a child.

*Silence is kept.*

We pray for parents and guardians,  
that they may be given grace to care  
for the children entrusted to them.

*Silence is kept.*

As we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child,  
we rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Innocents  
and commit the children of this community,  
our nation and our world to you,  
our righteous God.

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

*Please stand.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

President 'I will comfort you,' says the Lord,  
'as a mother comforts her child,  
and you shall be comforted.'

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

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange warm greetings with those nearest us.*

## Preparation of the Altar

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

President Pour upon the poverty of our love,  
and the weakness of our praise,  
the transforming fire of your presence.

*All* **Amen.**

## Offertory Hymn

**In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.**

**Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
enough for him, whom Angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

**Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air:  
but only his mother in her maiden bliss  
worshipped the Belovèd with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.**

*NEH 28*

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)*

*Music: CRANHAM Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

President  
*All*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

President  
*All*

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

President  
*All*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In love for our fallen human race,  
you sent your Son into the world to lighten our darkness.

In his life he rejoiced in the innocence  
and beauty of children;

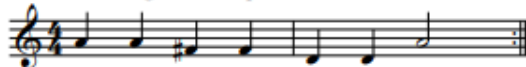
in his death he carried in his body the violence  
and cruelty of our world;

in his resurrection he brought life and salvation to his people  
and began the new creation.

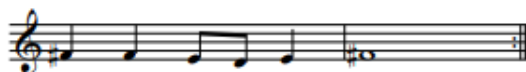
As our ascended and merciful high priest,  
he hears our cries and knows our grief;  
and will come as universal Lord to whom all must give account.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*The choir sings and all repeat:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of po - wer and might,



Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho-san-na in the high - est.



Bles-sed is he who comes in the name



who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

President

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All*

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

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,  
St Peter, St Wilfrid, St John and the 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.

*All*

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

*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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

President 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.**

## Agnus Dei

*The choir sings and all repeat:*



Je - sus, Lamb of God,  
have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, Lamb of God,  
have mer - cy on us.  
Je - sus, re-dee-mer of the world,  
grant us peace.

## The Giving of Communion

President Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*We welcome communicants of all denominations to receive holy communion. If you are not a communicant and would like to receive God's blessing, please come with this service sheet in your hand. Please move as directed. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the minister.*

*During the administration, Motets are sung and the organist plays.*

## Motets

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay.*

O sisters too, How may we do  
For to preserve this day  
His men of might, In his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

Herod, the king, In his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might, In his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me, Poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting Neither say nor sing  
By by, lully lullay.

*Words: Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15<sup>th</sup> century  
collected by Robert Croo (1534)*

*Music: noted by Thomas Mawdyke (1591) arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)*

Torches, torches, run with torches  
all the way to Bethlehem!  
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;  
come and sing your song to him.

Ah, Ro-ro, Ro-ro, my baby,  
Ah, Ro-ro, my love, Ro-ro;  
sleep you well, my heart's own darling,  
while we sing you our Ro-ro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry,  
joy and mirth and joy again;  
lo, he lives, the king of heaven,  
now and evermore. Amen.

*Words: Spanish tr. John Brande Trend (1887-1958)*

*Music: John Joubert (1927-2019)*

## Prayer after Communion

President      Let us pray.  
                  Lord Jesus Christ,  
                  in your humility you have stooped to share our human life  
                  with the most defenceless of your children:  
                  may we who have received these gifts of your passion  
                  rejoice in celebrating the witness of the Holy Innocents  
                                  to the purity of your sacrifice  
                                  made once for all upon the cross;  
                  for you are alive and reign, now and for ever.  
All              **Amen.**

## Notices

*Notices may be given after which please stand.*

## The Dismissal

### The Blessing

President      God, who gives life to the dead and comfort to the desolate,  
                  sustain you, keep you and console you,  
                  and the blessing of God almighty,  
                  the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
                  be among you and remain with you always.  
All              **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds worship and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him praise  
the Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,  
his love all loves exceeding:  
nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Saviour comes,  
the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
all tongues and peoples own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let every heart enthrone him:  
raise, raise your song on high  
while Mary sings a lullaby,  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the Babe, the son of Mary.

*NEH 40*

*Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837–1898)*

*Music: GREENSLEEVES trad. English melody*

President  
*All*

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

## Organ Voluntary