



RIPON
CATHEDRAL

Easter Day

Festal Evensong

Sunday 5th April 2026

3.30pm

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 for 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 21st 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 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.



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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.



Happy Easter!

A very warm welcome to Ripon Cathedral as, with Christians all around the world, we join in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

This service of Choral Evensong is a form of worship which is several hundred years old but draws on even older traditions. The who worshipped here when the Cathedral was founded will have sung and prayed an evening service which is intimately related to the service you experience today.

Easter is the foundation of our faith, the feast that tells again the story of the empty tomb and the disciples' early encounters with their risen Lord. Easter asserts that once and for all, Jesus overcame the powers of sin and death and so gives hope and the promise of life to people in every generation.

It is remarkable to think that people have celebrated Christ's resurrection on this site for over thirteen-hundred years. It is clear to see that we come into a Cathedral that has been decorated for this celebration in the most wonderful way. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has helped to prepare this ancient church for Easter, not least the flower arrangers but also those who have prepared the spectacular Easter Garden.

If you are visiting Ripon for Easter, having travelled from another part of the country or world, then please do take our best wishes back to your home community with you. We pray that you have a safe return journey. If, on the other hand, you live locally and don't normally worship with us regularly, please can I encourage you to come back and join us again? The Cathedral has a growing congregation (including online) and details of our Sunday and daily services can be found in the bi-monthly Newsletter and on the website. Children's church takes place during the Sunday 10.30am service. You would be very welcome at any of our services.

I hope that you enjoy celebrating Easter with us in this service. You will note that the new Paschal Candle (Easter Candle) for 2026 is already burning. We are fortunate that it has been especially prepared for us during Lent, and it is well worth admiring for its artistry. It was lit for the first time at our service yesterday evening. It now burns brightly, as it will in baptisms and funerals throughout the year, to remind us of the hope we have been given, thanks to the undying faithfulness and love of God.

Once again, I wish you a very happy Easter!

Dean John

About This Service

The service is sung by the cathedral choir to the *Evening Service in C* by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

The responses are sung to the setting by Bernard Rose (1916-1996).

Please stand as the clergy and choir enter.

Processional Hymn

The Lamb's high banquet we await
in snow-white robes of royal state,
and now, the Red Sea's channel past,
to Christ our Prince we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the Cross
his Body has redeemed our loss,
and tasting of his precious Blood,
our life is hid with Christ in God.

That Paschal eve God's arm was bared,
the devastating angel spared;
by strength of hand our hosts went free
from Pharaoh's ruthless tyranny.

Now Christ our Passover is slain,
the Lamb of God that knows no stain,
and he, the true unleavened Bread,
is truly our oblation made.

Maker of all, to thee we pray,
fulfil in us thy joy today;
when death assails, grant, Lord, that we
may share thy Paschal victory.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,
all glory, Lord, thy people give,
all glory to the Father be
and Spirit blest, eternally.

NEH 101

Words: Latin 7th century tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Music: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM Grenoble Church Melody

Please remain standing.

Preces

The Preces are sung by cantor and choir.

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.*

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Words of welcome from the Dean after which please sit for the Psalm.

Psalm

Choir O praise God in his holiness :
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him in his noble acts :
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him in the sound of the trumpet :
praise him upon the lute and harp.
Praise him in the cymbals and dances :
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals :
praise him upon the loud cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath :
praise the Lord.

Psalm 150

Please stand.

Choir 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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford

Please sit.

Old Testament Reading

A reading from the Song of Solomon.

'I will rise now and go about the city,
in the streets and in the squares;
I will seek him whom my soul loves.'
I sought him, but found him not.
The sentinels found me,
as they went about in the city.
'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'
Scarcely had I passed them,
when I found him whom my soul loves.
I held him, and would not let him go
until I brought him into my mother's house,
and into the chamber of her that conceived me.
I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the wild does:
do not stir up or awaken love
until it is ready!

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire,
a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love
all the wealth of one's house,
it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Solomon 3.2-5; 8.6-7

After a short silence, please stand with the choir.

The altar is censed during the singing of the Magnificat.

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

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.

Please sit.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the Revelation to John.

Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

Revelation 1.12-18

After a short silence, please stand with the choir.

Nunc dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Please remain standing.

The Apostles' Creed

The Dean
All

I believe in God
the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The cantor and choir sing:

The Lord be with you.
and with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Please sit.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for Easter Day

Cantor Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of thy Son
hast overcome the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to thee in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.

The Collect for Peace

Cantor O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

The Collect for Aid against all Perils

Cantor Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Anthem

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of heaven's joy,
sphere-born harmonious sisters, Voice and Verse,
wed your divine sounds, and mixed power employ,
dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce;
and to our high-raised phantasy present
that undisturbed song of pure concert,
aye sung before the sapphire-coloured throne
to him that sits thereon,

with saintly shout, and solemn jubilee,
where the bright Seraphim in burning row
their loud uplifted angel-trumpets blow,
and the cherubic host in thousand quires
touch their immortal harps of golden wires,
with those just spirits that wear victorious palms,
hymns devout and holy psalms
singing everlastingly:
That we on earth with undiscording voice
may rightly answer that melodious noise;
as once we did, till disproportioned sin
jarred against nature's chime, and with harsh din
broke the fair music that all creatures made
to their great lord, whose love their motion swayed
in perfect diapason, whilst they stood
in first obedience, and their state of good.
O may we soon again renew that song,
and keep in tune with heaven, till God ere long
to his celestial concert us unite,
to live with him, and sing in endless morn of light.

*Words: John Milton (1608–74)
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*

Prayers

The prayers finish with the Grace.

All **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

The collection is taken during this hymn.

**The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection-light;
and, listening to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain
his own 'All hail,' and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

NEH 117

Words: John of Damascus (c. 676–749) tr. John Mason Neale (1816-1866)

Music: ELLACOMBE Gesangbuch Mainz 1833

The Blessing

The Dean

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God Almighty
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.

All

Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Résurrection (*from* Symphonie-Passion)

Maurice Dupré (1886-1971)