



UNIVERSITY
CHURCH

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Choral Eucharist

with University Sermon

Sunday 1 March 2026

10.30am

Please take this booklet away with you

Welcome to the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. We are delighted that you have joined us today. This Order of Service will guide you through the Eucharist. Please join in singing the hymns, as well as in saying together the words printed in bold type. Invitations to sit, stand, or kneel are only suggestions; please worship in whatever posture is best for you. If you need holy communion in your seat, please inform a Steward. The service is live-streamed, and the central nave area may be visible on camera. To avoid appearing on camera, please sit in the Gallery.

The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb, is presiding and the Revd Prof Andrew Davison, Regius Professor of Divinity, Christ Church College, is preaching the University Sermon.

The Mass Setting is *Collegium regale* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) sung by the University Church Choir, conducted by James Brown. The organ is played by Marcus McDevitt.

CHILDREN AT ST MARY'S

We are delighted to have children worshipping with us and you are welcome to breastfeed and bottle-feed in church. A selection of toys and books are available in the Newman Room (behind the glass brick wall) next to the baby change. Saplings takes place on the first and third Sunday of the month in the Old Library during the first 45 minutes of the service for children aged 3-10 years old and their family.

UNIVERSITY SERMONS

The practice of delivering University Sermons in St Mary's dates back to the earliest days of the University. Each year people from many different traditions are invited by the Vice-Chancellor to deliver sermons 'before the University'. The University Procession includes the University Verger and Bedels, as well as the Proctors and the Vice-Chancellor (or their deputies). The University's motto from Psalm 27, *Dominus illuminatio mea* (The Lord is my light), captures something of its purpose: the illumination of the mind in the context of prayer. Today, these sermons provide an opportunity to hear thinkers from a range of disciplines and perspectives, drawing together the life of learning, spiritual discovery and the quest for truth.

INFORMATION ABOUT ST MARY'S

For over 1,000 years, this church has served the city of Oxford as a place of inspiration, worship, and Christian witness. The University of Oxford began within the precincts of this building. Today it is the home of a vibrant and diverse community, and offers a particular welcome to those who feel on the edges of faith or society. We hope that you will enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon. If you are new and would like to receive our weekly e-newsletter about events and services at St Mary's, sign up at universitychurch.ox.ac.uk/content/keeping-touch. Toilets, including accessible and baby change facilities, are situated at the back of Church behind the glass brick wall.



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The congregation remain seated as the choir sing the vestry prayers, concluding:
'This is none other than the House of God: This is the gate of Heaven' (Genesis 28.17).

THE GATHERING

INTROIT HYMN

Please stand



**The God of Abraham praise who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love:
to him uplift your voice, at whose supreme command
from earth we rise and seek the joys at his right hand.**

**The goodly land we see, with peace and plenty blest:
a land of sacred liberty and endless rest;
there milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life for ever grow, with mercy crowned.**

**There dwells the Lord our King, the Lord our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world of sin, the Prince of Peace:
on Sion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,
and glorious with his saints in light for ever reigns.**

**Before the triune God they all exulting stand,
and tell the wonders he has done throughout the land:
the listening spheres attend, and swell the growing fame,
and sing in songs which never end the wondrous name.**

**The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
'Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost', they ever cry:
Hail, Abra'm's God, and mine, (I join the heavenly lays)
all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.**

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)
based on *Yigaddel* by Daniel Ben Judah (14th century) v.1,3-6
Tune: LEONI, notated by Thomas Olivers from 18th century Synagogue song. NEH 148

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

All **Amen.**

President The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome may be offered.

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

Deacon The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and
acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Please sit or kneel

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

President 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.**

Please stand

KYRIE ELEISON

Sung by the Choir

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

THE COLLECT

President Let us pray. *We remain standing as we pray in silence*

President Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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

THE FIRST READING

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader For the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Please stand



**Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.**

**Take up thy cross – let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise for evermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end.**

Words: Charles Everest (1814-1877)

Tune: BRESLAU, Leipzig 1625, arr Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) NEH 76

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please turn to face the Gospel

Deacon Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

THE GOSPEL

John 3.1-17

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON The Revd Prof Andrew Davison

Please sit

THE NICENE CREED

Please stand

**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.**

**O kind Creator, bow thine ear
To mark the cry, to know the tear
Before thy throne of mercy spent
In this thy holy fast of Lent.**

**Our hearts are open, Lord, to thee:
Thou knowest our infirmity;
Pour out on all who seek thy face
Abundance of thy pardoning grace.**

**Our sins are many, this we know;
Spare us, good Lord, thy mercy show;
And for the honour of thy name
Our fainting souls to life reclaim.**

**Give us the self-control that springs
From discipline of outward things,
That fasting inward secretly
The soul may purely dwell with thee.**

**We pray thee, holy Trinity,
One God, unchanging Unity,
That we from this our abstinence
May reap the fruits of penitence. Amen.**

Words: Latin ascribed to St Gregory (540-604) Transl. T.A. Lacey (1853-1931)
Tune: JESU CORONA, Rouen Church Melody (1728) NEH 60.ii

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Please remain standing

President God of our journey, as we walk with you on your path of obedience, sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

President The Lord be with you.

All and also with you.

President Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

President It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

Sung by the Choir

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

President We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends,
and taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection**
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

President Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen

Please sit or kneel

THE LORD'S PRAYER

President 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

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

All **We do not presume to come to this your table,
merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under your table. But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

Sung by the Choir

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

○ Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

All who seek to follow Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion. When directed by the stewards, please go forward. The priest will place the sacrament into your hands with the words 'the Body of Christ'. You should consume the Host immediately and then you will be offered the Chalice with the words 'the Blood of Christ'. To each you respond 'Amen'. Please do not intinct (dip) the Host in the Chalice. If you need to receive a gluten-free wafer (20 parts per million gluten), please tell the priest at the Nave Altar. To receive a prayer of blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Super flumina Babylonis
- Palestrina (c.1525 – 1594)

*Super flumina Babylonis illic
sedimus et flevimus, cum
recordaremur Sion.
In salicibus in medio ejus
suspendimus organa nostra.*

By the waters of Babylon, there we
sat and wept, when we
remembered Zion.
On the willow trees in their midst
we hung up our harps.

President Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Please stand



**Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: ABERYSTHYTH, J. Parry (1841-1903) NEH 383.ii

THE DISMISSAL

THE NOTICES

Please be seated

THE BLESSING

Please stand

President Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G BWV 541 ii
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Please join us for refreshments after the service
in the De Brome Chapel**

Announcements

BABY AND TODDLER STAY AND PLAY | 3 Mar | 2.00pm | Chancel

Parents and carers are invited to enjoy a tea or coffee and a chat in our beautiful church setting while the little ones play from 2pm-4pm.

PARISH LUNCH | 8 Mar | 12 noon | Clore Old Library

All are welcome to join us for the next parish lunch. If you are able to contribute a dish please speak to Katie Hicks or email admin@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

LENT DISCUSSIONS WITH FAITH IN ACTION | 4, 16, 25 March | Various Venues

Join Faith in Action in using the National Peace and Justice Network's Journey from Lent to Easter which offers daily scripture readings, reflections, and poems. Available online: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/resources-for-lent-2026 or pick up a hard copy from the welcome desk. On March 4, 16 and 25, 7pm - 8pm, we will also meet as a Lent Group and reflect on this journey with the help of NPJN's Stations of the Cross. Everyone is welcome. Please contact the parish office for venue details.

MEMORIAL FOR THE LATE DAVID CRISPIN | 14 Mar | 2.00pm | Exeter Chapel

Many will remember David who led the flower arranging team for many years. David's family warmly invite the congregation to a memorial service for him in Exeter Chapel.

SEARCHING FOR GOD | Tuesdays | 8.00pm | Clore Old Library

Whether you are exploring faith for the first time, or preparing for baptism at Easter and confirmation at Pentecost, this course of study is suitable for all. You can join us in person or online. To find out more, contact vicar@universitychurch.ox.ac.uk

CHILDREN'S LENT GROUP | Sundays until 22 Mar | 9.45am | Newman Room

An opportunity for children to explore the Christian faith in greater depth. Age 8+

BURKINA FASO FUNDRAISING SALE | 22 Mar | De Brome Chapel

There will be a sale of homemade marmalade, jams, and chutney on Sunday 22nd March following the 10.30am service, in aid of the Christian Aid Burkina Faso project. For every £1 raised, the European Commission will give a further £9, making donations to the project worth 10x their value. Please come prepared with cash on the day but we would also be very grateful of donations of homemade jams, chutney, or marmalade to sell. There will also be lovingly hand-crafted jewellery and other items available.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION | 'Confession' available

Some find that the opportunity for individual confession and reconciliation can help them to lay burdens down and prepare their hearts to celebrate the joy of Easter. Please contact a member of the clergy, as the need arises.

CHARITABLE GIFTS AND DONATIONS



The University Church donates 10% of the cash and direct debits given by worshippers at this service to charity. If you are unable to make a cash donation, please consider using the contactless card machines by the door. Alternatively, you can donate online by using the QR code on the left of this text. Thank you for your generosity.

This Week

Sunday	08.30	Holy Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	09.45	Children's Lent Group	<i>Newman Room</i>
	10.30	Choral Eucharist	<i>Nave</i>
	15.30	German Language Service	<i>Chancel</i>
Monday <i>Chad, 672</i>	09.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
Tuesday	09.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.45	Bible Study	<i>Old Library</i>
	14.00	Toddler Stay and Play	<i>Chancel</i>
	20.00	Searching for God	<i>Old Library</i>
Wednesday	09.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	11.15	Coffee and Doughnuts	<i>De Brome</i>
Thursday	09.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>
	13.00	Free Lunchtime Concert	<i>Nave</i>
Friday	09.00	Morning Prayer	<i>Chancel</i>
	12.15	Eucharist	<i>Chancel</i>

Next Sunday

Sunday 8 March The Third Sunday of Lent

08.30	Holy Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Hannah Cartwright</i>	<i>Chancel</i>
09.45	Children's Lent Group	<i>Newman Room</i>
10.30	Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Revd Canon Dr William Lamb</i>	<i>Nave</i>
12.00	Parish Lunch	<i>Old Library</i>
17.00	Choral Evensong with University Sermon <i>Preacher: Fr Christopher Jamison OSB</i>	<i>Nave</i>

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