



Evensong
marking
the beginning of a new ministry
of the new Bishop of Chester
The Rt Revd Mark Tanner
as
he receives the Melanesian Crozier
and
prays for the Diocese

The eve of the Feast of St Matthew
Sunday 20 September at 3.30pm

THE WELCOME AND GREETING

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester greets The Rt Revd Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester with the Residentiary Canons at the West Door, and says

Bishop Mark, it is a delight to welcome you to this Cathedral as we give expression to a new phase in your ministry among us. These doors open into a place of pilgrimage that many people choose to visit through both intrigue and spiritual intent. When open, these doors remind us of our mission to all-comers, and when closed they remind us of the barriers we unintentionally create. This is a place where encounters begin. It may be for some the threshold of the Kingdom of God.

Bishop Mark prays

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Cathedral Choir sings

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if Thou wilt be my Guide.

The Rt Revd Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead, says

The water of baptism symbolises the beginning of our identification with Jesus Christ. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

Bishop Mark prays

Heavenly Father at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Cathedral Choir sings

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

The procession moves to the nave dais where it joins members of the Bishop's Staff

George Colville, the Diocesan Secretary, says

The foundation of our faith is found in Holy Scripture
which carries to us the Word of God.
In God's church that word is proclaimed in preaching and in worship,
by art and architecture and through our actions.
Here we are called to faithfulness in every corner of our lives.

Bishop Mark prays

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in the ways of wisdom;
deepen our faithfulness to you and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Cathedral Choir sings

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh, speak to reassure me,
to hasten, or control;
oh, speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

The procession moves to the Quire where it joins the College of Canons; in front of the Cathedra the Bishop says

The brokenness of our world is exposed
in the devastation brought about by the coronavirus outbreak.
Every single human being experiences this brokenness
through social distance, economic turbulence, uncertainty, loss and grief.
We experience something of that brokenness
here as an interruption between bishop and cathedra
in our waiting and my looking forward to the installation.

Bishop Mark prays

We pray, O Lord, for all who know brokenness today:
for those who suffer because of infection;
those whose wellbeing is harmed by isolation;
those who grieve and who have been close to death;
remembering the ones who are lost.
Heal your world we pray,
and empower your church, your people,
to be a source of your healing nature,
following the pattern of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Cathedral Choir sings

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
that where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be;
and Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

*Those in the procession move to their places in the Quire
The Bishop moves to a seat beside the Cathedra*

The Cathedral Choir sings

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then to rest receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

OFFICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

THE PRECES

Canon Jeremy Dussek, Canon Precentor and the choir sing the following short intercessory prayers known as Preces

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.

Stephen Cleobury (1948-2019)

All sit

PSALM 104

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul :
O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious; thou art clothed with majesty and honour.
2 Thou deckest thyself with light as it were with a garment :
and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain.
3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters :
and maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind.
4 He maketh his angels spirits :
and his ministers a flaming fire.
5 He laid the foundations of the earth :
that it never should move at any time.
6 Thou coveredst it with the deep like as with a garment :
the waters stand in the hills.
7 At thy rebuke they flee :
at the voice of thy thunder they are afraid.
8 They go up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath :
even unto the place which thou hast appointed for them.
9 Thou hast set them their bounds which they shall not pass :
neither turn again to cover the earth.
10 He sendeth the springs into the rivers :
which run among the hills.
11 All beasts of the field drink thereof :
and the wild asses quench their thirst.

12 Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation :
and sing among the branches.

13 He watereth the hills from above :
the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.

14 He bringeth forth grass for the cattle :
and green herb for the service of men;

15 That he may bring food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man :
and oil to make him a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

16 The trees of the Lord also are full of sap :
even the cedars of Libanus which he hath planted;

17 Wherein the birds make their nests :
and the fir-trees are a dwelling for the stork.

18 The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats :
and so are the stony rocks for the conies.

19 He appointed the moon for certain seasons :
and the sun knoweth his going down.

20 Thou makest darkness that it may be night :
wherein all the beasts of the forest do move.

21 The lions roaring after their prey :
do seek their meat from God.

22 The sun ariseth, and they get them away together :
and lay them down in their dens.

23 Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour :
until the evening.

24 O Lord, how manifold are thy works :
in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches.

25 So is the great and wide sea also :
wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

26 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan:
whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

27 These wait all upon thee :
that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

28 When thou givest it them they gather it :
and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.

29 When thou hidest thy face they are troubled :
when thou takest away their breath they die, and are turned again to their dust.

30 When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made :
and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

31 The glorious majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever :
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

32 The earth shall tremble at the look of him :
if he do but touch the hills, they shall smoke.

33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live :
I will praise my God while I have my being.

34 And so shall my words please him :
my joy shall be in the Lord.

35 As for sinners, they shall be consumed out of the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end :
praise thou the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.

All stand

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.
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All sit

THE FIRST LESSON

read by Ven Dr Mike Gilbertson

The first lesson is taken from the prophecy of Ezekiel, Chapter 33 beginning to read at the twenty third verse.

The word of the Lord came to me: As for you, mortal, your people who talk together about you by the walls, and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to a neighbour, 'Come and hear what the word is that comes from the Lord.' They come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not obey them. For flattery is on their lips, but their heart is set on their gain. To them you are like a singer of love songs, one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; they hear what you say, but they will not do it. When this comes and come it will! Then they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

Ezekiel 33. 23, 30 – 34. 10

Here ends the first lesson.

All stand

THE MAGNIFICAT

The Choir sings the Song of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1.46-55) which speaks of her faith and response to the call to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
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.

Herbert Sumsion 1899-1995)

THE SECOND LESSON

read by Lindsay Tanner

The second lesson is taken from the Gospel according to St Matthew, Chapter 6 beginning to read at the nineteenth verse.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Here ends the second lesson.

All stand

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

The Choir sings the Song of the prophet Simeon (Luke 2. 29-32) in greeting the Christ Child and speaking of Jesus, as the fulfilment of expectation of the Messiah, the Christ

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.

Herbert Sumsion 1899-1995)

At the end of the service, all stand and face East towards the High Altar to affirm the Christian Faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

All sit or kneel

THE LESSER LITANY

The Canon Precentor and Choir sing the Responses, Lord's Prayer and Collects

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SUFFRAGES

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.
○ Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.
○ 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.
○ God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT ON THE EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST MATTHEW

○ Almighty God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist: Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

○ 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

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.

THE ANTHEM

Remain seated as the Choir sings the anthem; at the end the Bishop and Cathedral Clergy are verged to the Sanctuary

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Psalm 121. 14

Ernest Walker (1870–1949)

THE RECEIVING OF THE CROZIER

Canon Jane Brooke, Canon Missioner, leads the responses

We proclaim not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.
For the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness,
has caused the light to shine within us:
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Canon Jeremy Dussek, Canon Precentor, reads

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

“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.”

John 10. 1-3

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

Canon Sarah Fenby, Canon Diocesan, prays

Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for you have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.
You chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
and destined us for adoption as your children.
In Christ we have the forgiveness of sins,
an inheritance in your kingdom, the seal of your Spirit,
and in him we live for the praise of your glory.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, Dean offers the Melanesian Crozier from the Quire Altar which Bishop Mark takes, and addresses him

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith,
That we may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

SERMON

Bishop Mark addresses the congregation in his own words; at the end he concludes

Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that in Christ you were reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Bishop Mark is processed with the Bishop's staff, Cathedral Clergy and Bishop Keith to the West Steps

Bishop Mark stands on the threshold of the West Door and, speaking outwards, says,

Let us bless the living God:
he was born of the Virgin Mary,
revealed in his glory,
worshipped by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed in throughout the world,
exalted to the highest heavens.
Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever. Amen.

He then prays a blessing over the city, county and diocese

He finally turns towards the congregation and says,

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.