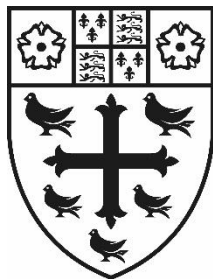


Westminster Abbey



Evensong

celebrating the Feast of the Dedication of
Westminster Abbey

in the presence of

The Lord Mayor of Westminster
and the Mayors of the London Boroughs



The London Mayors'
Association

Sunday 19th October 2025

3.00 pm

THE LONDON MAYORS' ASSOCIATION

HISTORICAL NOTE

On 1st December 1900 the then Mayor of the City of Westminster, His Grace The Duke of Norfolk KG, called together a meeting of all the mayors of the metropolitan boroughs (the inner London boroughs), the object being to discuss matters of ceremonial procedure with a view to uniformity being adopted by all the mayors of the metropolitan boroughs. Subsequently, in early 1901, the Metropolitan Mayors and ex-Mayors Association was formed by the Mayor of Westminster with the purpose of promoting discussion of general matters affecting the metropolis, and to enable mayors and former mayors to meet on a social basis.

In 1965, with the reorganisation of local government in London, the Mayors and former Mayors of all thirty-one boroughs were entitled to join, as were the Lord Mayors, and former Lord Mayors of the City of London and of the City of Westminster. Under the revised constitution of the Association, the Lord Mayor of Westminster is now automatically the President. A former Mayor, or Lord Mayor, is however, elected as Chairman of the Association.

The Association comprises over 700 members and is non-party political. It arranges a variety of events throughout the year, including this annual service in Westminster Abbey, a walk following in the footsteps of Dick Whittington, a former Lord Mayor of London, from Highgate Hill to the Mansion House, two foreign civic visits, and an Annual Dinner.

More details about the London Mayors' Association can be found at
www.londonmayors.org.uk

President: The Lord Mayor of Westminster
Chairman: Major Ian Payne

THE DEDICATION OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY

St Edward the Confessor, King of England from 1042 to 1066, re-endowed the Benedictine monastery of Westminster and built a large Romanesque church for the monastic community. That building was dedicated on 28th December 1065. St Edward died shortly after the dedication. He was canonised in 1161 and on 13th October 1163 his body was moved, or ‘translated’, to a new tomb in the church which he had built.

St Edward’s Romanesque church survived until the 13th century, when it was replaced by a new church in the Gothic style built by Henry III: the building in which we now worship. A new shrine was constructed for the body of St Edward, and the translation of his relics to this shrine was an integral part of the liturgy of the dedication of this new church, over 750 years ago, on 13th October 1269. The October date was chosen for the dedication because it was already established as the Feast of the Translation of St Edward. St Edward’s relics remain in that same shrine, which is behind the High Altar.

At the Abbey we keep the feast of the Translation of St Edward on 13th October, a celebration which focuses on the life of the saint. We keep the Feast of the Dedication of Westminster Abbey, focusing on the building as a sacred space, on the following Sunday.

EVENSONG

Evensong is an Anglican office, conflating the traditional monastic evening offices of Vespers and Compline, and set out in the Book of Common Prayer of 1549. The two canticles, Magnificat (The Song of Mary, Luke 1: 46–55) and Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon, Luke 2: 29–32), form the invariable heart of Evensong, and have, together with the Versicles and Responses, been the subject of a wide range of musical settings. This evening office is said or sung every day in the Abbey as part of the daily pattern of prayer and worship.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

*during which the choir and clergy move to places
in Quire and the Sacrarium*



CHRIST is made the sure foundation,
and the precious corner-stone,
who, the two walls underlying,
bound in each, binds both in one,
holy Sion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
dearly loved by God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God the One, in threefold glory,
singing everlastingly.

To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness,
hear thy people as they pray;
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls for ay.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they supplicate to gain;
here to have and hold for ever,
those good things their prayers obtain,
and hereafter, in thy glory,
with thy blessed ones to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father;
 laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
 ever Three, and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
 while unending ages run.
 Amen.

Westminster Abbey 205 NEH
from the anthem O God, thou art my God
Henry Purcell (1659–95)
Organist and Master of the Choristers 1679–95

Angularis fundamentum
c 7th–8th century
translated by John Mason Neale
(1818–66)

All remain standing for

THE WELCOME
 by
The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE
 Dean of Westminster

All remain standing. The officiant and the choir sing

THE RESPONSES

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.

Bernard Rose (1916–96)

All sit. The choir sings

PSALM 48

GREAT is the Lord, and highly to be praised :
in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.

The hill of Sion is a fair place, and the joy of the whole earth :
upon the north-side lieth the city of the great King;
God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge.
For lo, the kings of the earth :
are gathered, and gone by together.
They marvelled to see such things :
they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.
Fear came there upon them, and sorrow :
as upon a woman in her travail.
Thou shalt break the ships of the sea :
through the east-wind.
Like as we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God :
God upholdeth the same for ever.
We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God :
in the midst of thy temple.
O God, according to thy name, so is thy praise unto the world's end :
thy right hand is full of righteousness.
Let the mount Sion rejoice, and the daughters of Judah be glad :
because of thy judgements.
Walk about Sion, and go round about her :
and tell the towers thereof.
Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses :
that ye may tell them that come after.
For this God is our God for ever and ever :
he shall be our guide unto death.

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.

James Turle (1802–82) Organist and Master of the Choristers 1831–82

*All sit. The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Westminster and Deputy
High Steward, Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, reads*

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 7: 1–11

All stand. The choir sings

MAGNIFICAT
during which the High Altar is censed

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.

Evening Service in E
Herbert Murrill (1909–52)

Luke 1: 46–55

*All sit. His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir Kenneth
Olisa OBE, reads*

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 19: 29–end

All stand. The choir sings

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.

Evening Service in E
Herbert Murrill

Luke 2: 29–32

All face east and say together

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 remain standing. The officiant and choir sing

THE LESSER LITANY

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

O UR 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.

THE RESPONSES

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 officiant sings

THE COLLECTS

of the Day, for Peace, and for Aid against all perils

A LMIGHTY God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer; we praise thee for the many blessings thou hast given to those who worship thee here: and we pray that all who seek thee in this place may find thee, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a living temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

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.

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.

Bernard Rose

All sit. The choir sings

THE ANTHEM

LIGHT of the world, we know thy praise
The angels and archangels raise
And all the host of heaven.

More worthily than our faint hymns,
Whose jarring sound that glory dims,
Which God to thee has given.

But thou didst not disdain to take
Our low estate, or e'en to make
The tomb thy resting place.

So thou might bring into our night
The dawn of thine eternal light
To shine upon our face.

Nor death, nor hell, nor sin is Lord,
But thou, O Son of God. Thy word
Is now our sovereign law.

Therefore we thank thee, and we pray
Thy light may shine unto the perfect day
On us for evermore.

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Edward Capel-Cure (1860–1949)

All kneel or remain seated for

THE INTERCESSIONS

The officiant says

THE PRAYERS

for the Royal Family, and for the members of the Order of the Bath

ALmighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, Queen Camilla, William Prince of Wales, The Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family: endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God save our Gracious Sovereign, and all the Members of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath living and departed. **Amen.**

All say

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.**

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



ALL my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Michael 333 NEH
Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

Meine Hoffnung stehet feste
Joachim Neander (1650–80)
translated by Robert Bridges (1844–1930)

THE SERMON
by
The Dean

All stand to sing

THE HYMN

*during which a collection is taken; the money from today's services
will be divided equally between the work of the Abbey and the Lord
Mayor's Charities: Hotel School and The Avenues Youth Project*



O PRAISE ye the Lord!
praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,
ye sons of new birth;
praise him who has brought you
his grace from above,
praise him who has taught you
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!
all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord,
re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story
of what he has done.

O praise ye the Lord!
thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along:
for love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord!
Amen, amen.

*Laudate Dominum 427 NEH
from the anthem Hear my words, ye people
Hubert Parry (1848–1918)*

*Henry Williams Baker (1821–77)
after Psalm 150*

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces

THE BLESSING

All remain standing as the clergy and choir depart the Abbey

Music after the service

Psalm Prelude Set 2 no 3 'Sing to the Lord a new song' *Herbert Howells*

The bells of the Abbey church are rung

**Members of the congregation are requested kindly to remain
in their places until invited to move by the Honorary Stewards**

Details of all Abbey services are available at the Abbey website

westminster-abbey.org

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The Avenues Youth Project
avenues.org.uk



Hotel School
hotelschool.org.uk