

The Cathedral of  
St John the Baptist

# SOLEMN VESPERS



**CHURCHES  
TOGETHER**  
IN NORFOLK  
AND WAVENEY

with a celebration for Christian Unity  
by Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney

3:30pm, Sunday, 23 November 2025  
**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Universal King**

# WELCOME

Since the earliest times, Christians have sought to sanctify the day with moments of prayer at different points during the day. In the Catholic tradition, this has been codified in the *Divine Office*, which in the modern Roman rite divides the day into Matins (Office of Readings), Lauds (Morning Prayer), Terce, Sext and None (Prayer during the Day), Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Compline (Night Prayer). Each of these offices gives prominence to the Psalms and to readings from Sacred Scripture.

The high-point of Vespers is the singing of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song of thanksgiving. The psalms and the New Testament canticle that precede this are each bookended by sung antiphons, which relate the texts to today's feast of Christ the King.

The music at today's service is led by the Schola Cantorum of St John's Cathedral. All are invited to join in singing the hymns, the psalm verses printed in bold, and the sung congregational responses.

The praying of psalms and scriptural texts common to all Christians deepens the unity of God's people. In reciting the texts of the Divine Office, we join our prayer with the prayers of the whole church throughout the world.

# Church Leaders Declaration of Commitment for Christian Unity

*Signed on 24 November 2024 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Norwich*

As Leaders of Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney we acknowledge with thankfulness:

- Our common faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Our common call to serve in God's mission
- The diversity of our traditions and the different gifts each brings to our common life.

We rejoice in the partnership of trust and cooperation that has grown between us over recent years. We believe we are called by God to share our life more deeply, and to offer to the world a united witness and a shared service.

We believe that we have been led by the Holy Spirit to make this public commitment, and as fellow pilgrims we declare to:

- Worship, pray, study and work together for the unity and mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all.
- Consult together on issues affecting the common good.
- Whenever possible speak with one voice in common witness.
- Share resources wherever possible.
- Make available guidance and support to our Local Ecumenical Partnerships, Churches Together Groups, and all other ecumenical projects/agencies in Norfolk and Waveney.
- Provide visible and positive leadership in support of these commitments.

We invite all Christians in Norfolk and Waveney to support us in this declaration to which we now commit ourselves, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Revd Helen Hollands  
*Chair in East Anglia Methodist District*

Major Howard Russell  
*East of England Divisional Commander for the Salvation Army*

Liz Hoffbauer  
*The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

The Revd Lythan Nevard  
*Moderator for the Eastern Synod URC*

The Revd David Mayne  
*Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association*

The Rt Revd Peter Collins  
*Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia*

The Rt Revd Graham Usher  
*Church of England Bishop of Norwich*

# Processional Hymn



1. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

3. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

TEXT: S.J. Stone (1830-1900)

TUNE: AURELIA  
S.S. Wesley (1810-76)

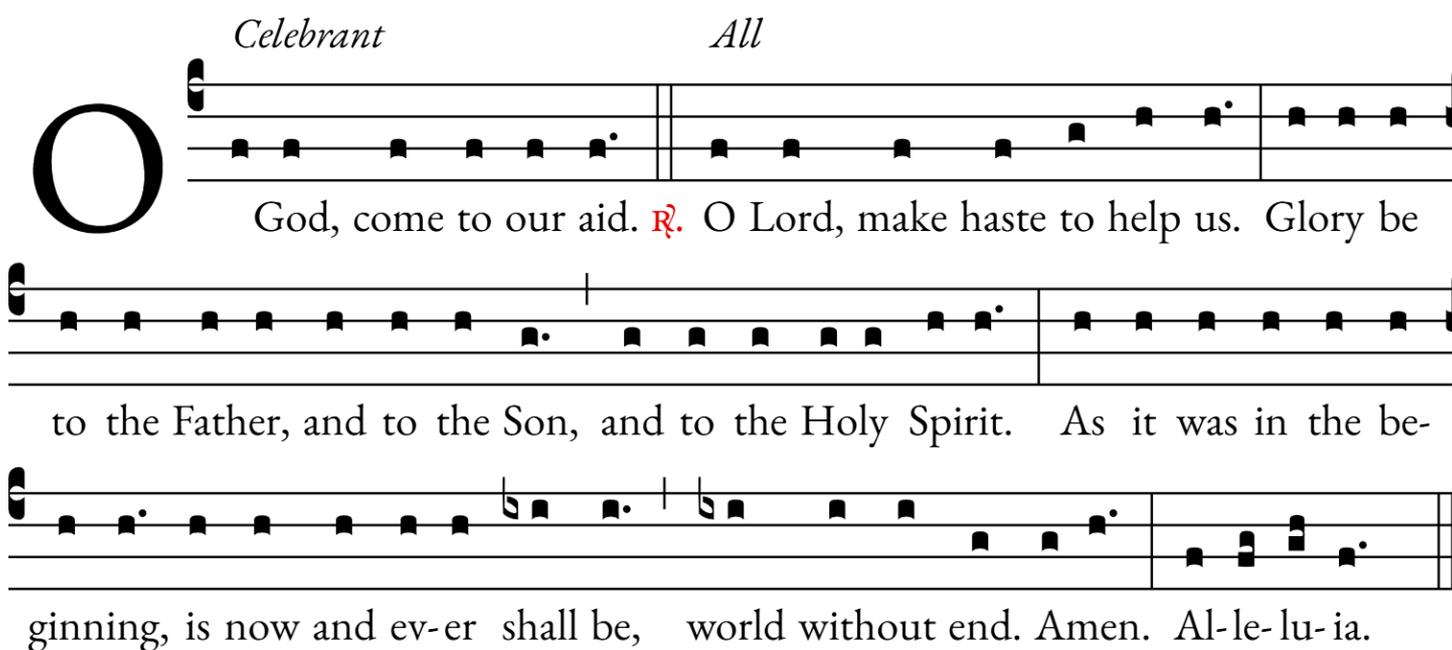
## Welcome

The Rt Rev Peter Collins

Bishop of East Anglia (Roman Catholic)

# Introduction to the Office

*Celebrant* *All*



**O** God, come to our aid. **R.** O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory be  
to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the be-  
ginning, is now and ev-er shall be, world without end. Amen. Al-le-lu-ia.

## Office Hymn



*Org.*

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
your Lord and King adore;  
mortals give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore;  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*  
*rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

2. Jesus, the saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains  
he took his seat above;  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*  
*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

3. His kingdom cannot fail,  
he rules both earth and heaven,  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given;  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*  
*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

4. He sits at God's right hand  
till all his foes submit,  
and bow to his command,  
and fall beneath his feet:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;*  
*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

# Psalmody

¶ Please be seated. The antiphons preceding and following each psalm and the New Testament canticle are sung by the choir. Please join in the verses printed in **bold**.

Antiphon 1: Super solum David et super regnum eius sedebit in æternum, alleluia.  
*He will sit on the throne of David and will rule his kingdom for ever, alleluia.*

*Isaiah 9:7*



*Psalm 109*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:

'Sit on my right:

-3-

your foes I will put beneath your feet.'

**The Lord will | wield from | Sion**

**your | sceptre of | power:**

-3-

**rule in the | midst of all your | foes.**

A prince from the day of your birth  
on the holy mountains;

-3-

from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

**The Lord has sworn an | oath he will not | change.**

'You are a | priest for | ever,

-3-

**a priest like Mel- | chizedek of | old.'**

The Master standing at your right hand  
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside  
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

**Glory be to the | Father and to the | Son**

**and to the | Holy | Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is | now, and ever | shall be,**

**world without | end. A- | men.**

Antiphon 1: Super solum David et super regnum eius sedebit in æternum, alleluia.  
*He will sit on the throne of David and will rule his kingdom for ever, alleluia.*

Antiphon 2: Regnum tuum, regnum ómnium sæculórum, et dominátio tua in omnem generatióem et generatióem.

*Yours is an everlasting kingdom; Lord, your rule lasts from age to age.*

*Psalm 144:13*





Glory be to the Father and | to the Son  
and to the | Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,  
world without | end. Amen.

Antiphon 2: Regnum tuum, regnum ómnium sæculórum, et dominátio tua in omnem generatióem et generatióem.

*Yours is an everlasting kingdom; Lord, your rule lasts from age to age.*

*Apocalypse 19:16, 1:6*

Antiphon 3: Habet in vestiménto et in fémore suo scriptum: Rex regum et Dóminus dominántium. Ipsi glória et impérium in sæcula sæculórum.

*On his cloak and on his thigh there was a name written: The King of kings and the Lord of lords.*

*To him be glory and honour for ever and ever.*

*Apocalypse 19:16, 1:6*

*Canticle: Apocalypse 19:1-2,5-7*

Alleluia.

Salus et glória et virtus Deo nostro est,  
**alleluia.**

Quia vera et iusta iudícia sunt eius.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia.

Laudem dícite Deo nostro, omnes servi  
eius,  
**alleluia.**

Et qui timétis eum, pusílli et magni!  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. Quóniam regnávít Dóminus,  
Deus noster omnípotens.

**alleluia.** Gaudeámus et exultémus et  
demus glóriam ei. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia. Quia venérunt núptiæ Agni,  
**alleluia.**

Et uxor eius præparávit se.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia.

*Salvation and glory and power belong to our  
God, **Alleluia.***

*His judgements are true and just.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.***

Alleluia.

*Praise our God, all you his servants,  
**alleluia.***

*you who fear him, small and great.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.***

*Alleluia. The Lord our God, the Almighty,  
reigns,*

**alleluia.**

*Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.***

*Alleluia. The marriage of the Lamb has come,  
**alleluia.***

*And his bride has made herself ready.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.***

Alleluia. Glória Patri et Fílio,  
**alleluia.**

Et Spirítui Sancto.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia.

Sicut erat in princípío et nunc et semper  
**alleluia.**

Et in sácula sáculórum.

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Alleluia. Glory be to the Father and to the Son,  
alleluia.*

*And to the Holy Spirit,  
Alleluia, alleluia.*

*Alleluia.*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever  
shall be, Alleluia.*

*World without end. Amen.*

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

Antiphon 3: Habet in vestiménto et in fémore suo scriptum: Rex regum et Dóminus dominántium. Ipsi glória et impérium in sácula sáculórum.

*On his cloak and on his thigh there was a name written: The King of kings and the Lord of lords.*

*To him be glory and honour for ever and ever.*

## Scripture Reading

*1 Corinthians 15:25-28*

*Read by Revd David Mayne,*

*Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association*

For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet. – Though when it is said that everything is subjected, this clearly cannot include the One who subjected everything to him. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

## Motet

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Jesu, Rex admirabilis  
Et triumphator nobilis  
Dulcedo ineffabilis  
Totus desiderabilis.

*Jesus, wondrous king  
and noble conqueror,  
unutterable sweetness,  
wholly desirable:*

Mane nobiscum Domine  
Et nos illustra lumine  
Pulsa mentis caligine  
Mundum reple dulcedine.

*Remain with us, Lord,  
and shine your light upon us,  
drive away the darkness of our minds,  
fill the world with sweetness.*

Quocumque loco fuero  
Semper Iesum desidero  
Amore Iesus languero  
et corde totus ardeo

*In whatever place I find myself  
I will always desire Jesus.  
I languish for love of Jesus  
And my heart is aflame.*

*Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)*

## Address

The Rt Rev Graham Usher

Bishop of Norwich (Church of England)

# Magnificat

¶ *Please stand.*

Antiphon: *Data est mihi omnis potestas in caelo et in terra, dicit Dominus.*

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me, says the Lord.*

*Matthew 28:18*

Magnificat Octavi Toni

Orlando di Lasso (1532-1594)

Magnificat,  
anima mea, Dominum

et exultavit spiritus meus  
in Deo, salutari meo.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae:  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes  
generationes.

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,  
et sanctum nomen eius,

et misericordia eius a progenie in  
progenies:  
timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,  
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

Deposuit potentes de sede  
et exaltavit humiles;

esurientes implevit bonis  
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum  
recordatus misericordiae suae,

sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,  
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto:

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*My soul  
glorifies the Lord*

*and my spirit rejoices  
in God, my Saviour.*

*He looks on his servant in her lowliness  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.*

*The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!*

*His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.*

*He puts forth his arm in strength  
and scatters the proud-hearted.*

*He casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly.*

*He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.*

*He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy,*

*the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit*

*as it was in the beginning, is now and ever  
shall be, world without end. Amen.*

*Luke 1:46-55*

¶ *The antiphon is repeated.*

# Prayers

*The Revd David Mayne,*

*Regional Minister Team Leader for the Eastern Baptist Association:*

We stand before you as your people.

You call us to reconciliation and unity through your Spirit.

We thank you for the diversity of your Church and the beauty of each tradition.

Let our journey together be filled with joy, and let our hearts beat as one, drawn together in your peace.

*All*                    Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

*The Revd Helen Hollands,*

*Chair in East Anglia Methodist District:*

God of justice and healing,

You hear the cries of the wounded and the hopes of the humble.

Teach us to walk with courage, to listen with compassion,  
and to act with love.

Where there is division, sow unity.

Where there is pain, bring healing.

Send us out as instruments of your peace,  
committed to justice and reconciliation in your world.

*All*                    Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

*Major Jenny Barwise,*

*Salvation Army:*

We invoke you, Spirit of Unity,

Heal the wounds of our history,

Remove from us all that sustains our present divisions.

Unstop our ears to hear your call for unity.

Awaken in us the hunger for righteousness.

Teach us and lead us into all truth.

*All*                    Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

*Dr Ian Watson,  
County Ecumenical Officer:*

O Lord Jesus Christ, the True Light,  
You who enlighten and sanctify every person who comes into the world,  
May Your light shine upon us as we journey together,  
Grant us to walk in Your justice,  
To live in Your mercy,  
And to be united in Your love.  
Make us worthy to be called,  
Your disciples,  
That with one heart and one voice,  
We may glorify You with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever.

*All* Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

¶ *The prayers conclude with the singing of the Lord's Prayer:*



**O**ur Father, who art in heav'n, 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 in-to temptation, but deliv-er us from e- vil.

## Collect

*The Rt Revd Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia:*

Almighty ever-living God,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,  
grant, we pray,  
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,  
may render your majesty service  
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Final Blessing and Dismissal

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your Spirit.**

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**All: Now and forever.**

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All: Who made heaven and earth.**

Bishop: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# Final Hymn

1. Now thank we all our God  
with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mothers' arms  
has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
to keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
of this world in the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

TEXT: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)  
tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)

TUNE: NUN DANKET  
from J. Crüger's *Praxis pietatis melodica*, 1647

## Organ Voluntary

Nun danket alle Gott (BWV 657)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)



The Cathedral of St John The Baptist Trust. Reg Charity No: 1152820

