

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



Solemn Eucharist

on the feast of

The Conversion of St Paul



Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

A warm welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral for today's Solemn Eucharist as we mark the feast of The Conversion of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul is one of the most important figures in the history of the Church. His writings are amongst some of the earliest Christian documents that we have. In scripture, 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament are attributed to him. Converted on the road to Damascus, Paul (known before his conversion as Saul) travelled tens of thousands of miles around the Mediterranean world, telling others of the person of Jesus. It was Paul's influence which turned Christianity from small beginnings into a worldwide faith that was open to all.

However, the pre-conversion Saul took much time to become the Paul we associate with our Christian faith. It took him time to understand that his call, to teach of the saving power of the Good News of Christ, was to be a whole life's journey for him.

Today's celebration dates back to the sixth century as Christians recognised the importance of Paul's life and work, and of our call too to see our faith as a life-long journey of discovery and witness.

*For reasons of Safeguarding and Data Protection, members of the public are **not permitted to take photographs or video recordings** during services and events.*

*We wish to inform you that photographs, video or livestream footage in which you may appear **could be used by the Cathedral at any time and appear in the public domain including social media.***

Please note that this service will be livestreamed on Facebook. If you do not want to appear in this please inform a warden or verger.

***Instructions about posture in the service are for guidance only** and those who prefer not to stand, or who cannot, should do as is most comfortable for them.*

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Collections are taken during our services. You are welcome to make a donation at this stage, or by using the contactless giving point or by placing your donation into the giving box as you leave after the service. If you are a UK taxpayer, consider using a Gift Aid envelope (remembering to fill in your details and sign it) or making a written declaration allowing the Chancellor to add 25% to your gift. In this way a gift of £5.00 becomes £6.25 at no extra cost to you. Our Parish Giving scheme allows you to give regularly by Direct Debit - do speak with one of the wardens or stewards or contact Liz Steele at liz@lokersteele.co.uk for further information. **Thank you.**

Service order extracts from *Common Worship Services*,
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The Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

After the welcome everyone is invited to stand.

President Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth,

All you have given us a share in the inheritance
of the saints in light.

President You show me the path of life, O God.

All In your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Everyone sings

The Processional Hymn

A heavenly splendour from on high,
A light too great for mortal eye,
Deprives the hunter of his prey
And turns his threatening wrath away.

In darkened eyes, an inward light
Begins to shine upon his sight,
And in his heart he hears the call
To follow, and surrender all.

The Christ, for sinners crucified,
Whose risen power he had denied,
Now claims this servant for his own,
And bids him make the gospel known.

The nations listen to his voice,
And in the peace of Christ rejoice;
The Church on earth his praises sing,
Who led the Gentiles to their King.

Blest Paul, the convert of the Lord,
May heaven's light to us afford
A blindness to the lures of sin,
That we with thee a crown may win.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
From saints on earth and saints in heaven,
Let everlasting praise be given. Amen.

Words: G. B. Timms, b. 1910

Music: Gonfalon Royal (NEH T.128ii),

Percy Buck, 1871-1947

After the hymn everyone remains standing for

The Greeting

The President greets everyone informally and then says

President We meet in the name of the ✠ Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

President With Saint Paul and all the saints, let us worship God
All let us praise his name together.

President Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus be with you

All and also with you.

The Prayers of Penitence

Deacon We were once dead through the trespasses and sins
in which we lived,
but now we are alive together with Christ.
Through him we have access in one Spirit to the Father,
to whom we humbly confess our sins.

Everyone kneels or sits. Silence is kept

Deacon Surrounded by the love of the saints, we ask God's love,
healing and mercy on us and on his world, as we pray

Deacon Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends,
yet we do not always follow in your way.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Deacon Lord Jesus, in your joy you chose us
to be your faithful witnesses,
yet we often fail to bring your light to others.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Deacon Lord Jesus, we know that by ourselves we can do nothing;
but with you all things are possible.
O Lord turn us,
and help us to be the people you would have us be.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

President May the God who loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son to be our Saviour
forgive you ✠ and free you from your sins,
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Everyone stands as the choir sings

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax hominibus
bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe,
Agnus Dei, Filius Patris
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad
dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,
And in earth peace,
goodwill towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify
thee, we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ; O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
Thou that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins
of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the
right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord,
thou only, O Christ, with the
Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

Everyone remains standing as the President prays

The Collect

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Everyone sits for

The First Reading

A reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.'

So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 9.1–22, NRSV

All For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Everyone stands for

The Gospel Reading

The gospel book is carried in procession by the Deacon to the centre of the Nave and everyone turns to face it.

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



Choir Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.
All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Deacon The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

Matthew 19.27–30, NRSV

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



The procession returns and all sit for

The Sermon

After a short time of silence for reflection, everyone stands for

The Affirmation of Faith

President Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in him.

President Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in him.

President Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

President This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Deacon Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,
let us make our prayers to the Father
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone kneels or sits for

The Prayers of Intercession

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past
behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the
cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today,
marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the
Church.

Lord, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid, and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and to heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

There follows a time of quiet for silent prayer and thanksgiving, after which the intercessor says

Almighty God,
you have built your Church upon the foundation of the
apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,
that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Everyone stands for

The Peace

The President introduces the Peace saying

Let the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Everyone may exchange a sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

During the hymn a collection is taken, the altar table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it

**Disposer supreme, and judge of the earth,
who chooseth for thine the weak and the poor;
to frail earthen vessels, and things of no worth,
entrusting thy riches which ay shall endure.**

**Throughout the wide world their message is heard,
and swift as the wind it circles the earth;
it echoes the voice of the heavenly Word,
and brings unto mortals the hope of new birth.**

**Their cry thunders forth, 'Christ Jesus is Lord',
then Satan doth fear, his citadels fall;
as when those shrill trumpets were raised at thy word,
and one long blast shattered proud Jericho's wall.**

**O loud be the call, and stirring the sound,
to rouse us, O Lord, from sin's deadly sleep;
may lights which thou kindlest in darkness around,
the dull soul awaken, her vigil to keep.**

**All honour and praise, dominion and might,
to thee, Three in One, eternally be,
who pouring around us thy glorious light,
dost call us from darkness thy glory to see.**

*Words: Latin, J. B. de Santeuil, 1630-1697
tr. Isaac Williams, 1802-1865, and editors
Music: Thomas Ravenscroft, c. 1590-1633*

At the end of the hymn everyone remains standing as the President prays

The Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Almighty Father,
as we celebrate this holy sacrament of our redemption
may your Spirit fill us with the light of faith;
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Everyone remains standing for

The Eucharistic Prayer

The President and people sing the Sursum Corda:



The Lord be with you and al - so with you.

Lift — up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

President It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For on this day he called to his service
the blasphemer and persecutor of your Church.
Saul, who had resisted your grace,
became Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

Because he was faithful and true in his ministry,
you made him an example of patient service,
to instruct in the way of eternal life
all those who heard his preaching and believed your word.

Now, therefore, he who became your chosen instrument
for the salvation of the nations
has made us also eager to proclaim your mercy,
and sing in union with all the powers of heaven
the joyful hymn of your praise:

Choir	<p>Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.</p>	<p><i>Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord Hosanna in the highest.</i></p>
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President Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
 through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 and as we follow his example and obey his command,
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

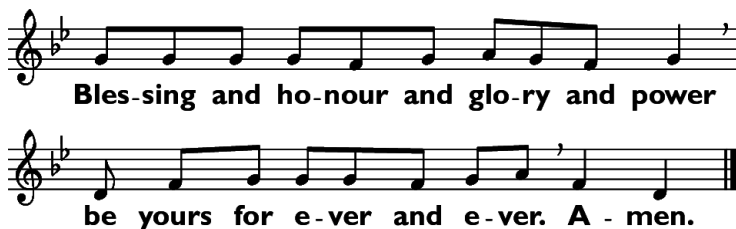
In the same way, after supper
 he took the cup and gave you thanks;
 he gave it to them, saying:
 Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.

Deacon Christ is the bread of life:
**All When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
 we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
 until you come in glory.**

President Accept through him, our great high priest,
 this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
 and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
 in the presence of your divine majesty,
 renew us by your Spirit,
 inspire us with your love
 and unite us in the body of your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All



Everyone kneels or sits as the consecrated bread and wine are raised in the sight of the people and the Sanctus bell is rung.

The Lord's Prayer

After a period of stillness, the Deacon introduces the Lord's Prayer, saying

Deacon With saints and martyrs through the ages,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us, saying

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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.**

The Invitation to Communion

President Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Spiritual Communion

‘Spiritual Communion’ is a historic practice in the church for anyone who cannot receive the bread and wine physically. It is possible because Communion is always a spiritual practice and not simply physical. Through God’s grace, whilst we cannot receive the bread and wine, we can still receive the sacrament in our hearts, and share in communion with Jesus. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere who cannot receive the bread and wine at this time. The following prayer is one form of words to use for Spiritual Communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Everyone remains kneeling or sitting as the choir sings

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.
*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

The Giving of Communion

Please follow the directions of the cathedral wardens.

If you are used to receiving Communion in a church of your own, you are warmly invited to receive the sacrament today.

Gluten free bread: please indicate to the administering priest if you require a gluten free Communion bread.

Anyone wishing to receive a blessing is also welcome: please carry this order of service with you as an indication to the ministers.

During the distribution of Communion, the choir sings

The Motet

The Prayer after Communion

Everyone kneels or sits as silence is kept

President Lord God, the source of truth and love,
 keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
 united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
 and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

President United in fellowship with Paul and all the saints, we pray

**All We thank you, Lord,
 that you have fed us in this sacrament,
 united us with Christ and the saints,
 and given us a foretaste
 of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.
 Amen.**

¶ The Dismissal

Everyone stands for

The Sending Out

The service concludes with the following acclamation, as we give thanks for The Conversion of Saint Paul, and acknowledge our Lord's call to follow the way of Christ today.

President Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:
All **there is no end of his greatness.**

President In the darkness of this age
All **your faithful servants make known**
 the glory of your kingdom.

President Your saints are patterns of holy living and holy dying
All **strengthen us to follow them**
 in faith, and hope, and love.

President You kindle the fire of your love in the hearts of the saints
All **equip us to bring the Good News of Christ**
 to a waiting world.

The Blessing

President May Christ who called Saint Paul to his service,
 and to preach the good news to the world,
 strengthen you to witness to his grace and love.
 And the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Everyone remains standing for

The Dismissal

Deacon Following God's saints
 in the ways of holiness and truth,
 let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Voluntary

It is a great help to the Cathedral wardens if you can place your kneeler on the pew after the service before you leave. Thank you.
