



DURHAM
CATHEDRAL

Solemn Evensong

with

Procession to the Feretory

on the feast day of

St Oswald, King of Northumbria

Wednesday 5 August 2026

5.30 p.m.



Welcome to Durham Cathedral

*Inspired by our saints, Cuthbert and Bede,
the mission of Durham Cathedral
is to offer everyone the opportunity
to encounter God and know God's love in Jesus Christ.*

*Flowers are an important part of our adorning of the Cathedral Church
for divine service on many occasions during the year.*

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Members of the worshipping community of St Oswald's Church, Durham, have come in procession from their church to join our worship today, and we are delighted to welcome them all to the Cathedral.

St Oswald

St Oswald was born at the beginning of the 7th century, son of king Æthelfrith of Bernicia, ruler of part of the later Kingdom of Northumbria. After the death of his father around 616, he was forced into exile in Scotland, where he was converted to Christianity and baptised on Iona. He returned to Northumbria with a small army to face in battle the British king Cadwallon, who had killed Oswald's brother, Eanfrith, and taken the kingdom. The night before the battle, Oswald had a vision of St Columba, who promised him victory against the larger British army. He set up a wooden cross and prayed with his soldiers, his council agreeing that they would all be baptised after the battle. Oswald prevailed, and reunited the Kingdom of Northumbria, promoting the spread of Christianity throughout the region. He gave the island of Lindisfarne to St Aidan, who had come from Ireland to aid Oswald in his mission, and often travelled with Aidan, acting as his interpreter. Oswald fell in battle against Penda of Mercia on this day in 642, and St Bede recounts that he ended his life in prayer, interceding for his soldiers when he knew his life was over. His head is interred with the remains of St Cuthbert in the Feretory, and the two saints are often depicted together, Cuthbert carrying Oswald's head.

Today's service is sung by the Alleyn Singers

Voluntary

Please stand at the entry of the choir and ministers with St Oswald's Church banner in procession

Hymn Jerusalem the golden,
 With milk and honey blest,
 Beneath thy contemplation
 Sink heart and voice opprest.
 I know not, O I know not,
 What social joys are there,
 What radiancy of glory,
 What light beyond compare.

 They stand, those halls of Sion,
 Conjubilant with song,
 And bright with many an angel,
 And all the martyr throng;
 The Prince is ever in them,
 The daylight is serene,
 The pastures of the blessed
 Are decked in glorious sheen.

 There is the throne of David,
 And there, from care released,
 The song of them that triumph,
 The shout of them that feast;
 And they who, with their leader,
 Have conquered in the fight,
 For ever and for ever
 are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessed country,
Shall I ever win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes!
The Lord shall be thy part:
His only, his for ever,
Thou shalt be, and thou art!

Bernard of Cluny
translated by John Mason Neale

EWING, *From the tune St Bede*
by Alexander Ewing

Preces

William Smith

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir 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.

Welcome and Introduction

The Very Reverend Dr Philip Plyming

Please sit

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord :
 exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.
Thou hast given him his heart's desire :
 and hast not denied him the request of his lips.
For thou shalt prevent him with the blessings of goodness :
 and shalt set a crown of pure gold upon his head.
He asked life of thee, and thou gavest him a long life :
 even for ever and ever.
His honour is great in thy salvation :
 glory and great worship shalt thou lay upon him.
For thou shalt give him everlasting felicity :
 and make him glad with the joy of thy countenance.
And why? because the King putteth his trust in the Lord :
 and in the mercy of the most Highest
 he shall not miscarry.
All thine enemies shall feel thine hand :
 thy right hand shall find out them that hate thee.
Thou shalt make them like a fiery oven
 in time of thy wrath :
 the Lord shall destroy them in his displeasure,
 and the fire shall consume them.
Their fruit shalt thou root out of the earth :
 and their seed from among the children of men.
For they intended mischief against thee :
 and imagined such a device
 as they are not able to perform.
Therefore shalt thou put them to flight :
 and the strings of thy bow shalt thou make ready
 against the face of them.
Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength :
 so will we sing, and praise thy power.

Please 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.

Please sit

First Lesson

Wisdom 6: 1-11

Listen therefore, O kings, and understand; learn, O judges of the ends of the earth. Give ear, you that rule over multitudes, and boast of many nations. For your dominion was given you from the Lord, and your sovereignty from the Most High; he will search out your works and inquire into your plans. Because as servants of his kingdom you did not rule rightly, or keep the law, or walk according to the purpose of God, he will come upon you terribly and swiftly, because severe judgement falls on those in high places. For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily tested. For the Lord of all will not stand in awe of anyone, or show deference to greatness; because he himself made both small and great, and he takes thought for all alike. But a strict inquiry is in store for the mighty. To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed, so that you may learn wisdom and not transgress. For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness, and those who have been taught them will find a defence. Therefore set your desire on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed.

After a short silence, all stand with the choir

During the Magnificat which follows, incense is offered at the High Altar, representing our prayers ascending to heaven

Magnificat

Philip Moore: Third Service

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.
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 showed 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.

Please sit

A dispute arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

'Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.' And he said to him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!' Jesus said, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me.'

He said to them, 'When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'No, not a thing.' He said to them, 'But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, "And he was counted among the lawless"; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.' They said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' He replied, 'It is enough.'

After a short silence, all stand with the choir

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.

Please turn to face East

The Apostles' Creed

All **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.**

The Lesser Litany, Responses and Collects

William Smith

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Please kneel

Cantor Let us pray.

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

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.

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 Collect for St Oswald

O Lord God almighty,
who didst so kindle the faith
of thy servant King Oswald with thy Spirit
that he set up the sign of the cross in his kingdom
and turned his people to the light of Christ:
grant that we, being fired by the same Spirit,
may ever bear our cross before the world
and be found faithful servants of the gospel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for peace

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.

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.

Procession to the Feretory

The officiant invites the congregation to follow the choir and ministers in procession to the Chapel of Nine Altars

Hymn **For all the saints who from their labours rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest.**

Alleluia!

**Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light.**

Alleluia!

**O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.**

Alleluia!

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.**

Alleluia!

**And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.**

Alleluia!

**The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.**

Alleluia!

**But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of glory passes on his way.
*Alleluia!***

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast;
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
*Alleluia!***

William Walsham How

SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams

Reading

from St Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People

Although he wielded supreme power, Oswald was always wonderfully humble, kindly, and generous to the poor and strangers. The story is told how on the feast of Easter one year, Oswald sat down to dine with Bishop Aidan. A silver dish of rich food was set before him, and Bishop Aidan had just raised his hand to bless the food when the servant who was appointed to relieve the needs of the poor came in suddenly and informed the king that a great crowd of needy folk were sitting in the road outside begging alms of the king. Oswald at once ordered his own food to be taken out to the poor, and the silver dish to be broken up and distributed among them.

At a later date, Oswald fell in battle at Maserfelth against the heathen king and people of Mercia, who had also slain his predecessor Edwin, his death taking place on the fifth of August, when Oswald was thirty-eight years of age.

Acclamation

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

All One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

All All your works praise you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

All They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power.

All Let us rejoice and praise them with thankful hearts
and glorify our God in whom they put their trust.

All My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:
let everything bless his holy name for ever and ever.

verses from Psalm 145

During the anthem which follows, incense is offered in the Feretory, where the head of St Oswald is interred along with the relics of St Cuthbert

Anthem Stetit angelus *sung by the choir*

Stetit angelus iuxta aram templi,
Habens thuribulum aureum in manu sua.
Et ascendit fumus aromatum in conspectu Domini
de manu Angeli

*An Angel stood near the altar of the temple
holding a golden censer in his hand.
And the incense smoke ascended before the presence
of the Lord from the Angel's hand.*

Revelation 8: 3-4

Philip Moore

The Prayers

Minister Let us pray.

Silence is kept

As we give thanks for the life and witness of St Oswald,
let us pray for all monarchs and rulers,
and especially our King, Charles,
that they may serve after the pattern of Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace, and servant of all:

Almighty and everlasting God,
we are taught by thy holy Word,
that the hearts of kings are in thy rule and governance,
and that thou dost dispose and turn them
as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom:
we humbly beseech thee
so to dispose and govern the heart of
Charles thy Servant, our King and Governor,
that, in all his thoughts, words, and works,
he may ever seek thy honour and glory,
and study to preserve thy people committed to his charge,
in wealth, peace, and godliness:
grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Let us pray for ourselves,
that we might hear and obey the call of Christ
to embrace the greatness of his kingdom
by offering our lives in love and service:

Almighty Father, who raised up your servant Oswald
to serve the kingdom of Northumbria
and the kingdom of God;
give us a zeal like his for your truth
and a persistence like his in prayer.
And as 'his life closed in prayer'
as he interceded for his soldiers,
grant that we may always abound in love
for one another and for you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

And now, in a moment of silence,
let us present our own private prayers
before the throne of God's heavenly grace:

Silence is kept

O thou who hast taught us that we are most truly free
when we lose our wills in thine:
Help us to attain to this liberty
by continual surrender unto thee;
that walking in the way which thou hast prepared for us,
we may find our life in doing thy will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The prayers conclude with the Grace

**All 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.**

The officiant gives words of farewell

The Blessing

Minister God give you grace to follow Oswald and all his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Voluntary

*Worshippers are very welcome to go into the Feretory after the service to light a
candle and say a prayer*

We are grateful to the Alleyn Singers for singing at this service

The Cathedral's Saints

Our saints are well celebrated over the summer. Do come and join us to celebrate them:

Tuesday 11 August: The Anniversary of the Foundation of the Cathedral

The foundation stone was laid on 11 August 1093 in the presence of King Malcolm of Scotland and his wife St Margaret of Scotland. At Evensong on this day we mark this moment with a procession to the Margaret Altar in a service sung by the Choir of the Anglican Grosvenor Chapel, London, and the Choir of Farm Street Roman Catholic Church.

Saturday 15 August: The Blessed Virgin Mary

The feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary—one of the Cathedral's patrons—is celebrated all day with a celebration of the Eucharist at the High Altar and 12.30 p.m. and a Sung Eucharist in the Nave at 5.30 p.m.

Sunday 30 August: Eve of St Aidan's Day

At Evensong at 3.30 p.m., we will celebrate St Aidan, the mentor of St Cuthbert, and make a procession to the Aidan Altar in the Chapel of the Nine Altars. The following day, the Eucharist at 12.30 p.m. will be celebrated at the Aidan Altar.

Friday 4 September: The Translation of the Relics of St Cuthbert

Before the Cathedral was fully complete but when the Quire had been completed, the Relics of St Cuthbert were rehoused in the part of the Cathedral where we now venerate them. Morning Prayer at 8.30 a.m. and the Eucharist at 12.30 p.m. are said in the Feretory this day. At 5.30 p.m., Evensong includes a procession to the Shrine.

Autumn Bible study opportunity

Following on from the success of the Lent Course and feedback received, we are offering the opportunity to take part in an Autumn study group. *Encountering God in Mark's Gospel* will take place on six Wednesday evenings in September and October at 15 The College, starting on 16th September. Led by Jane Maycock, Canon Missioner, it will last for around 90 mins and involve looking at individual Bible passages in thoughtful and reflective ways. No specialist knowledge or prior experience is required, and all members of the Cathedral worshipping community are welcome. A Thursday morning group would also be possible if there is demand for something during the daytime. To register an interest and/or find out more please email: jane.maycock@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Organ Recitals 2026

Our organ recitals follow last year's revised and successful format. Once a month, there will be an hour long recital starting at 7.00 p.m. We're keen to encourage people who don't normally come to our organ recitals to join us, alongside those familiar with these special recitals, and enjoy the magnificent sound of one of the country's greatest cathedral organs played by some of Britain's greatest organists.

Wednesday 22 April: Katherine Dienes-Williams, Guildford Cathedral

Wednesday 27 May: Joseph Beech, Durham Cathedral

Wednesday 24 June: Robert Quinney, New College, Oxford

Wednesday 22 July: Imogen Morgan, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Wednesday 26 August: Benjamin Mills, Durham Cathedral

Wednesday 23 September: Daniel Cook, Durham Cathedral

Tickets are available at durhamcathedral.co.uk, from the Visitor Desk, or on the door.

Community Newsletter

Many of you will have received the July edition of the Cathedral's community newsletter. It is issued once a month and includes pastoral words from different members of the cathedral clergy and news about things that might interest the cathedral community—especially about worship, music, talks, and other events that build up our worship and fellowship. It goes to regular worshippers who have joined the community roll as well as other constituencies closely associated with the Cathedral. Alternatively, you can sign up to the newsletter by scanning the QR code below. If you are a regular worshipper here and you would like to be on the community roll, you are welcome to join it by sending an email to community@durhamcathedral.co.uk, for the application form.



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advancing our mission as a place of prayer, pilgrimage and proclamation,
conserving heritage, and providing welcome.

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- Contact development@durhamcathedral.co.uk

Thank you!



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