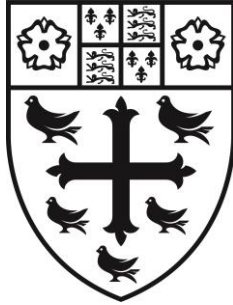


Westminster Abbey



A Service to mark the opening of
the Legal Year in England
and Wales

Tuesday 1st October 2024
11.30 am

Members of the congregation are requested kindly to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile telephones and other electronic devices are switched off.

The church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

The service is conducted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster.

The service is sung by the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir, conducted by Andrew Nethsingha, Organist and Master of the Choristers.

The organ is played by Matthew Jorysz, Sub-Organist.

Music before the service

Fantasia super

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Komm, heiliger Geist BWV 651

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand for the Procession

All sit when the Lord Chancellor, the Lady Chief Justice, the Heads of Divisions, and the Justices of the Supreme Court have taken their seats

The remaining members of the procession enter, taking their seats upon reaching their places

All stand as the clergy and choir move to places in Quire and the Sacrament

All remain standing. The choir sings the Introit

HOW good it is, how wonderful,
wherever people live as one!
It is like the sacred oil on the head
flowing down Aaron's beard,
down to the collar of his robe.
It is like the dew of Hermon
running down the mountains of Zion.
There God gives blessing:
life for ever.

Judith Bingham (b 1952)

Psalm 133

All remain standing. The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle KCVO MBE, Dean of Westminster, gives the Bidding

AT the beginning of the legal year, we gather in the presence of almighty God, who is the judge of all and who knows the secrets of our hearts, to renew our commitment to the service of the Crown and to all manner of people that we may, together, do right.

We acknowledge a shared high calling, a common commitment to a justice that all can recognize, done without fear or favour, affection or ill will. So we seek God's strength and guidance that we might remain true to our calling; informed, wise, and just.

We pray for The Right Honourable Shabana Mahmood MP, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, for The Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr, Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales; and for all who make and administer the law, both in the United Kingdom and in the other legal jurisdictions represented here today.

In this holy place we ask God to sustain us in our life and work, to grant us humility and sound judgment, to forgive our errors, and to inspire our service. Through us and in us, may the words of the prophet find fulfilment and justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Now let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom on earth, saying, as Jesus taught us:

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.

All sit

The Right Honourable Shabana Mahmood MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, reads the first Reading

THE Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.

Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.
For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2: 6–11

Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Psalm

TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes :
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law :
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments :
for therein is my desire.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies :
and not to covetousness.
O turn away mine eyes, lest they behold vanity :
and quicken thou me in thy way.
O stablish thy word in thy servant :
that I may fear thee.
Take away the rebuke that I am afraid of :
for thy judgements are good.

Behold, my delight is in thy commandments :

O quicken me in thy righteousness.

Let thy loving mercy come also unto me, O Lord :
even thy salvation, according unto thy word.

So shall I make answer unto my blasphemers :
for my trust is in thy word.

O take not the word of thy truth utterly out of my mouth :
for my hope is in thy judgements.

So shall I always keep thy law :
yea, for ever and ever.

And I will walk at liberty :
for I seek thy commandments.

I will speak of thy testimonies also, even before kings :
and will not be ashamed.

And my delight shall be in thy commandments :
which I have loved.

My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have
loved :

and my study shall be in thy statutes.

John Stainer (1840–1901)

Psalm 119: 33–48

and Thomas Attwood Walmisley (1814–56)

*The Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr DBE, Lady Chief Justice of England
and Wales, reads the second Reading*

JESUS continued his address to the crowd; ‘You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of

your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

Matthew 5: 38–48

Thanks be to God.

All stand to sing the Hymn



JUDGE eternal, throned in splendour,
 Lord of lords and King of kings,
 with thy living fire of judgement
 purge this realm of bitter things:
 solace all its wide dominion
 with the healing of thy wings.

Still the weary folk are pining	Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
for the hour that brings release:	cleave our darkness with thy sword;
and the city's crowded clangour	feed the faithless and the hungry
cries aloud for sin to cease;	with the richness of thy word:
and the homesteads and the woodlands	cleanse the body of this nation
plead in silence for their peace.	through the glory of the Lord.

Rhuddlan 490 NEH
 from *Edward Jones' Musical Relicks of Welsh Bards 1800*

Prayer for the Nation
Henry Holland
 (1847–1918)

The Right Reverend Peter Selby, Associate Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark and former Bishop to His Majesty's Prisons, gives the Address

The choir sings the Anthem

LET thy hand be strengthened and thy right hand be exalted. Let justice and judgment be the preparation of thy seat! Let mercy and truth go before thy face. Let justice, judgment, mercy and truth go before thy face. Alleluia!

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

after Psalm 89: 13b–14

The Reverend Mark Birch MVO, Precentor, leads the Prayers

Let us pray.

All kneel or remain seated

The Venerable Sheila Watson, Preacher of Lincoln's Inn, says

LET us pray for this United Kingdom, for its unity, peace, and concord; for Charles our King, and for all members of the Royal Family; for both houses of Parliament, and all who bear responsibility in the ordering of our society; that justice, truth, and integrity may direct our common life.

Lord, in thy mercy

hear our prayer.

The Reverend Mark Hatcher, Reader of the Temple, says

LET us remember both the victims of crime and its perpetrators. Let us pray for those held prisoner, whether convicted or on remand, and for communities where there is anxiety and the fear of crime; praying for all that encourages social cohesion, resilience, and the development of virtue.

Lord, in thy mercy

hear our prayer.

The Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, says

LET us pray for all who administer justice in this realm; for all judges and the tribunals judiciary, magistrates, jurors, and ombudsmen; for clerks and court officials; for barristers, solicitors, chartered legal executives; and all whose profession or expertise is the law. Let us pray for the police, the armed forces, the probation and the prison services, and those who maintain order in our land; that our nation may live in peace and security.

Lord, in thy mercy

hear our prayer.

The Reverend Stephen Baxter, Preacher to Gray's Inn, says

LET us pray for our fellow jurisdictions in the United Kingdom, in the nations of the Commonwealth, and the Council of Europe; and for all those who make and administer law in nations and bodies governed by the Rule of Law.

Lord, in thy mercy

hear our prayer.

The Right Reverend James Curry, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, says

OGOD, the just and merciful Judge of all, look down from heaven, we beseech thee, on these thy servants, who are set by thy appointment to minister justice in this land. Grant unto them thy Holy Spirit, the Spirit of uprightness, the Spirit of discernment, and the Spirit of love, that they may boldly, discreetly, and mercifully fulfil their sacred duties, to the good of thy people and the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand to sing the Hymn



IMMORTAL, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest—to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish—but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

St Denio 377 NEH
from John Roberts's Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839

Walter Smith (1824–1908)

All remain standing. The Dean pronounces the Blessing

GOD grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, The King, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us sinners, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing the National Anthem

GOD save our gracious King,
G long live our noble King,
God save The King.
Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The King.

Thy choicest gifts in store
on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
to sing with heart and voice:
God save The King.

All remain standing as the Procession leaves the church

Music after the service

Grand chœur dialogué

Eugène Gigout (1844–1925)

The bells of the Abbey are rung

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