



KRISTIANSAND CATHEDRAL

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The church and the congregation

At 60 metres long, 38,7 metres wide and with a 70 metre bell tower, Kristiansand Cathedral is among the biggest churches in Norway. Part of the evangelical Lutheran Church of Norway, it is the seat of the Diocese of Agder and Telemark.

The present cathedral is the fourth church in this location. Shortly after Kristiansand was founded in 1641, a simple church was built. The episcopal see was moved from Stavanger to Kristiansand in 1682, and a new

cathedral was consecrated in 1696. Following a fire in 1734, a new cathedral was completed in 1738, but destroyed by fire in 1880. The present day cathedral was consecrated in 1885. The neogothic cathedral was designed by architect Henrik Thrap-Meyer, who also designed Victoria Terrasse in Oslo, currently the seat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foundations from the previous church were used in the choir of the new church, and this is the reason for the unusual placement of the west-facing high altar.

As the metropolitan church in Kristiansand, the cathedral is host to a number of major events, but it is also parish church to the city districts of Kvadraturen and Eg. It is the home of an active congregation that employs a staff of 11, as well as a number of volunteers, all taking part in extensive programmes of diakonia, Christian education and refugee aid. Worship in the cathedral includes 160 services per year.

Foto: Frank Seland. Trykk og design: Printprofil AS

Renovation projects for anniversaries:

FOR THE CATHEDRAL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1935,

architect Arnstein Arneberg selected colours for the interior, and he also had a chancel balustrade fitted from old brass balusters with names of patrons engraved. The balusters were salvaged from the old church. The stained glass windows in the choir were also fitted at this time.

FOR THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2010,

the choir was remodelled. The chancel balustrade was removed, thereby extending the choir by two metres, and the four evangelists were placed as free-standing statues. A movable altar was built, and shortly after, the carpets were removed. A children's play area was also installed at this time.

The church's interior was sandblasted for the 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1960.

The church bells were presented to the Cathedral at THE CITY'S 350 YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 1991 as a gift from Falconbridge Nickel Refinery.



KRISTIANSAND CATHEDRAL

An open church in the heart of the city

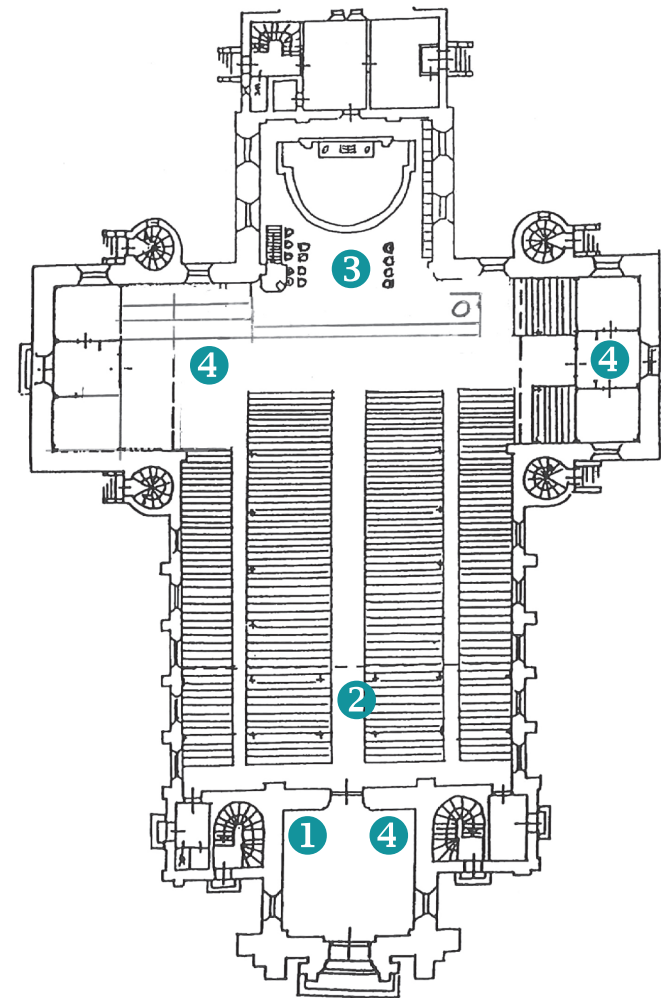
Works of art



CHURCH PORCH 1

The church porch was formerly used as a chapel. The series of old paintings on the walls were originally front panels on the organ loft. They were removed in the mid 19th century because they clashed with the artistic ideals of that time, and thereby survived the fire in 1880.

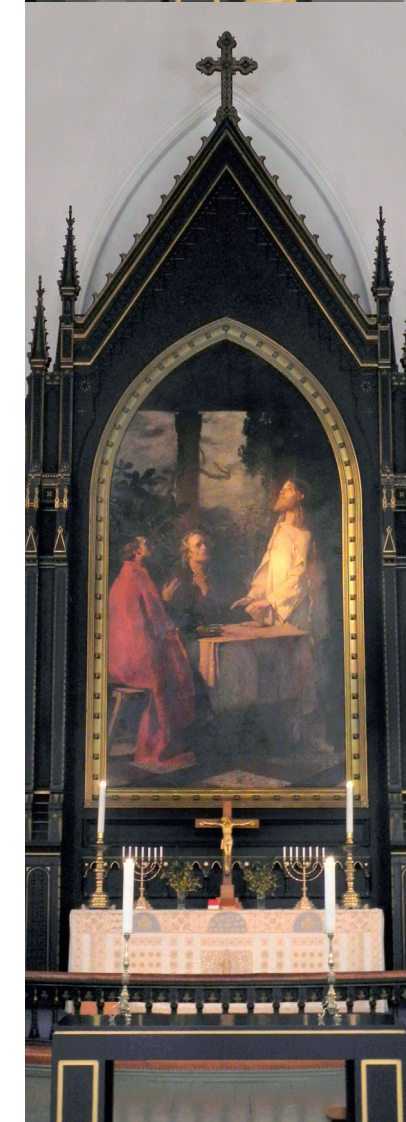
The reliefs on the doors separating porch and the nave were carved by local artist Olaf Hasaas (1894-1977), and installed in 1965. The panels depict Christ as judge on the Day of reckoning, the annunciation, The birth of Jesus, the baptism of Jesus, Jesus in Gethsemane, Jesus carrying his cross, and the resurrection of Jesus.



CHOIR AND SANCTUARY 3

At the choir entrance we can see wooden sculptures of the evangelists, Matthew alongside a man, Mark and a lion, Luke with an ox and John with an eagle. They are believed to be carved by Michael Røyl around 1750, and are considered amongst the finest examples of wood carvings of this period. The sculptures were salvaged from the fire in 1880.

The altarpiece depicts the resurrected Jesus meeting the two disciples in Emmaus, as described in Luke 24, 13-32. It was painted by Eilif Peterssen, known for his portraits of writers Henrik Ibsen and Arne Garborg, his illustrations of Snorri's king sagas and the fairytales of Asbjørnsen and Moe, as well as historical scenes such as "Christian II signs Torben Oxe's death sentence".



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The marble font was a gift to the cathedral in 1871, and was through a heroic effort rescued from the fire in 1880. The pulpit is decorated with 12 small paintings of the apostles. They were painted by Hugo Lous Mohr (1889-1970) for the cathedral's 50th anniversary. Lous Mohr is most known for his decorations on the ceiling of Oslo Cathedral, and the colour palette is very similar in both churches. On the altar are two brass candleholders from 1738, also salvaged from the 1880 fire.

The stained glass windows were created in 1932-1934 by Karl Kristiansen (1886-1971), who was Emmanuel Vigeland's apprentice and associate. They depict from left to right the sermon on the Mount, the nativity, the crucifixion, the last supper, the resurrection and Jesus blessing the children. Over the side galleries are a stained glass angel with a trumpet, and a St Olav's cross.

The textiles in the cathedral are more recent, created by the artist Borgny Farstad Svalastog, born 1943.



NAVE 2

Walking up the nave we pass underneath the model of the frigate "Jylland", a ship from the battle of Helgoland in 1864. Several fallen Danes were laid to rest in Kristiansand, and on the 100th anniversary of the battle, Denmark's hereditary prince presented this model as a gift from Kristiansand's twin town Hjørring. The actual frigate can be seen in Ebeltoft, Denmark.

THE CHURCH ORGAN 4

The cathedral's organ was finished in November 2013. It was built by Orgelbau Klais in Bonn, Germany, and has 67 divisions, including four transmissions. 9 divisions are placed in a smaller choir organ on a gallery in the north transept. The organ has 4528 pipes and two consoles, one mechanical console in the organ loft, and one electric console at the front of the nave. The organ facade is a replica of Henrik Thrap-Meyer's original design from 1884. Throughout the year, the cathedral hosts a number of organ recitals.

