

Luleå Cathedral

2017

Luleå Cathedral is a brick cathedral built in neo-Gothic style. When the church was dedicated in 1893, it was called Oscar Fredrik's Church, after King Oscar II. In 1904, it was renamed Luleå Cathedral when the Luleå diocese was formed. The architect who designed the cathedral was Adolf Emil Melander from Stockholm.

The cathedral is cruciform, 54 metres long and 35 metres wide. The steeple is just over 60 metres high.

Initially, the church was richly furnished predominantly with wood carvings, but in the 1930's, the dark furnishings were ripped out and replaced by a lighter, simpler style in keeping with the times' modernist thinking. Architect Knut Nordenskjöld was responsible for the new design. Wall paintings and star decorations on the ceiling were removed and the whole of the interior painted white. What remains of the old style can still be seen at the entrances to the church.

The next major renovation was carried out in the 1980's, under the direction of architect Bertil Franklin. This time, the church was painted a warmer colour, for example, the gallery railings are now red and gold. The "Little Church" with the altar and reredos was built in the cathedral's southern arm and the "Paradise Gate", with its metal-forged leaves and branches, was positioned at the entrance. The latest renovation was completed in 2004. The southern gallery was then restored to its original size with a room underneath it. A new bridal chamber was constructed in the porch. The big chandelier has got a new place in the central aisle.

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The cathedral's gallery organ was built by Grönlunds orgelbyggeri in Gammelstad. The organ which weighs 25 tonnes has 4585 pipes. The registers can be pre-programmed via a computer, which also enables the voices to be selected. The organ was installed in 1987.



The Madonna from Tichvin icon is a gift from Bishop Simon of Murmansk and Montjogorsk. The icon was painted in St Petersburg in 1997. Three new icons have been added to the collection through donations.



History

Building started on Luleå Cathedral after the great fire in Luleå City in 1887. The fire completely destroyed the old Gustaf's Church on this site, which dated from the end of the 1700's. Yet, the Cathedral has even older predecessors. The first church in Luleå City was a wooden church

Opening hours and worship times:

- The Cathedral is open most weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- The week's main service is held Sundays at 11 a.m.



The reredos was painted by Garibaldi Lindberg in 1893. The motif of Jesus on the cross is symbolic of life's journey, from the little child in the lady's arms, to the adolescent and finally the old man.



The triumphant crucifix was made by Carl Fagerberg from 1937-1938.

The baptism font from 1938 is made from Jämtland limestone. The silver bowl in the font was made by the Borgila workshops in Stockholm in the same year.



The front of the altar has an 'antemensale' in embossed copper with silver and gold gilding. Christ stands in the middle surrounded by Luke, Mark, Paul, Peter, Matthew and John.

dedicated in 1667. By the mid-1600's, the city started taking shape on its present-day site, an archipelago at the mouth of the Lule River. Before then, the city had stood higher up the river, on the site now called

Gammelstad, where the medieval Nederluleå church can be found. The drop in sea level meant that the harbour became too shallow and the city had to be moved closer to the coast.