YORK MINSTER

The Cathedral & Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

CHORAL EVENSONG

ON THE

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 7th December 2025
at 4.00pm

Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this service of Choral Evensong. Welcome if you are a regular worshipper and know the Minster well, and welcome if you are experiencing this building and this form of worship for the first time today.

Today's service will be live-streamed from the Minster. In this service we are immersed in the words of scripture, spoken and sung, and we are given time and space to lose ourselves in prayer and come closer to God.

Information about this Service

- This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- Please follow the directions of the stewards. Where "Sit" or "Stand" are indicated, these are given simply as a guide. Throughout the service please feel free to adopt the posture that is most comfortable for you.
- Please join in saying together the words printed in **bold** type and in singing the hymn.
- We are grateful for all who give to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. You can offer a gift, or set up regular giving, by using the following QR code. 10% of all giving offered during this service will be given to three charities York Minster supports, HOPE Africa, a charity which was initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese based organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a variety of Refugee charities based in the City of York. Thank you for all you are able to give.
- Donations can be made via the following QR code:

Order of Service

A bell is rung and prayers are sung.

Introit

O nata lux de lumine Jesu Redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis,
nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

O Light born of light, Jesu Redeemer of the world:
deign in mercy to hear the prayers and praises of those who kneel before you.

You who once deigned to take flesh for the sake of those who were lost:
make us members of your blessed body.

Words Tenth-century Latin ♦ *Music* Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

Stand when the choir enters the Quire.

Preces

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
Choir As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.
Choir The Lord's name be praised.

Music Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (*b* 1971)

Sit for the singing of the psalm but stand for the Gloria.

Psalmody

Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my strength ♦
think no scorn of me; lest, if thou make as though thou hearest not, I become like them that go down into the pit.

Hear the voice of my humble petitions, when I cry unto thee ♦
when I hold up my hands towards the mercy-seat of thy holy temple.

O pluck me not away, neither destroy me, with the ungodly and wicked doers ♦ which speak friendly to their neighbours, but imagine mischief in their hearts.

Reward them according to their deeds ♦
and according to the wickedness of their own inventions.

Recompense them after the work of their hands ♦
pay them that they have deserved.

For they regard not in their mind the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands ♦ therefore shall he break them down, and not build them up.

Praised be the Lord ♦
for he hath heard the voice of my humble petitions.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart hath trusted in him, and I am helped ♦ therefore my heart danceth for joy, and in my son will I praise him.

The Lord is my strength ♦
and he is the wholesome defence of his Anointed.

O save thy people, and give thy blessing unto thine inheritance ♦
feed them , and set them up for ever.

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.

Psalm 28

Sit.

First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the First Book of Kings.

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, 'Is it you, you troubler of Israel?' He answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.' So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, 'How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, 'I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.' All the people answered, 'Well spoken!' Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.' So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, 'O Baal, answer us!' But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, 'Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.' Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come closer to me'; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, 'Israel shall be your name'; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, 'Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt-offering and on the wood.' Then he said, 'Do it a second time'; and they did it a second time. Again he said, 'Do it a third time'; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all round the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.' Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt-offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.'

Here ends the First Lesson.

1 Kings 18.17–39

Stand.

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

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 shewed 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.

Words Luke 1.46–55
Music The King's College Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (*b* 1971)

Sit.

Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Gospel of John.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

John 1.19–28

Stand.

Nunc Dimittis

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.

Words Luke 2. 29–32
Music The King's College Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Remain standing and turn to face east.

The Apostles' Creed

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 and Responses

Cantor The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit.

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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.
Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

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.

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.

Music Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Sit.

Anthem

Vox dicentis: Clama: et dixi: Quid clamabo? Omnis caro foenum, et omnis gloria eius quasi flos agri. Vere foenum est populus. Exsiccatum est foenum, et cecidit flos: verbum autem Domini nostri manet in aeternum.

Super montem excelsum ascende tu, qui evangelizas Sion: exalta in fortitudine vocem tuam, qui evangelizas Jerusalem; exalta, noli timere. Dic civitatibus Judeae: Ecce Deus vester.

Ecce Dominus Deus in fortitudine veniet, et bracchium eius dominabitur: ecce merces eius cum eo, et opus illius coram illo.
Sicut pastor gregem suum pascet, in bracchio suo congregabit agnos, et in sinu suo levabit, foetas ipse portabit.

A voice said: Cry; and I said: what shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field. Surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain: O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid. Say unto the cities of Judah: Behold your God.

Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

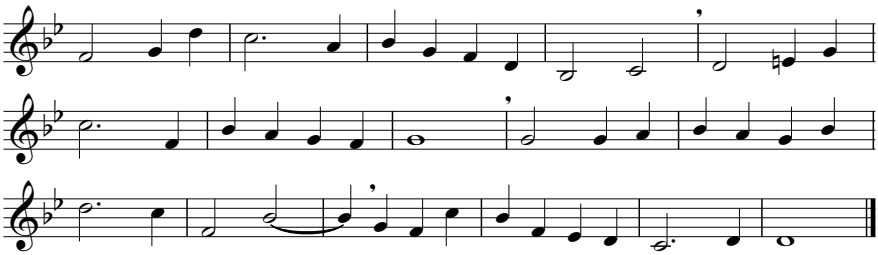
Words Isaiah 40. 6–11 ♦ *Music* Edward Woodall Naylor (1867–1934)

Sermon

The Reverend Eleanor Launders-Brown, Succentor

Stand.

Hymn



1. Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
   stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
   Is it the music of his people's prayer?

2. Surely he cometh, and a thousand voices
   shout to the saints, who long for his return;
surely he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
   glad in his coming who hath sworn: I come!

3. This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
   This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
   cast at his feet the burden of our care.

4. Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
   he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
   Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

Words AM 37, Frederic William Henry Myers (1843–1901) alt.
Tune HIGHWOOD, AM 37, Sir Richard Runciman Terry (1865–1938)

Remain standing.

The Blessing

Remain as quiet as possible as the choir processes out and sings the final prayer; this is followed by the organ voluntary which concludes the service.

Voluntary

Pièce héroïque César Franck (1822–1890)

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the music, ministry and mission of York Minster as you leave.

If you worship regularly at York Minster, you are already a member of our community. Please help us know who you are by joining the Community Roll and by subscribing to our weekly notice sheet. Take a look online at yorkminster.org/get-involved/community or ask a steward or a member of the clergy for more information.

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