



**YORK  
MINSTER**

The Cathedral & Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**ON THE**

**SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
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.
- ◆ The Chapter of York Minster is committed to the safeguarding and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. If you therefore have any concerns about the welfare of a child, a young person or a vulnerable adult, or about the behaviour of someone in relation to safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact our Safeguarding Officer, Caroline Wood: Tel: 01904 559542, Mobile: 07843 339980, Email: [carolinew@yorkminster.org](mailto:carolinew@yorkminster.org). If you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm, please call the emergency services on 999.
- ◆ 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 received during this service will be given to charities York Minster supports – HOPE Africa, a charity initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a number of charities who work locally with homeless people 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

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

*Words* Latin, St Bernard (1090–1153)

translated into English by Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

*Music* Sir Edward Cuthbert Bairstow (1874–1946)

Master of the Music, York Minster, 1913–1946

*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* Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

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

## Psalmody

O how amiable are thy dwellings ♦  
thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord ♦  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she  
may lay her young ♦  
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house ♦  
they will be alway praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee ♦  
in whose heart are thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well ♦  
and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength ♦  
and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer ♦  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender ♦  
and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

For one day in thy courts ♦  
is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God ♦  
than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence ♦  
the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold  
from them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts ♦  
blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

*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.

*Sit.*

## First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

Elijah arose, a prophet like fire,  
and his word burned like a torch.

He brought a famine upon them,  
and by his zeal he made them few in number.  
By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens,  
and also three times brought down fire.

How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!  
Whose glory is equal to yours?

You raised a corpse from death  
and from Hades, by the word of the Most High.

You sent kings down to destruction,  
and famous men, from their sickbeds.

You heard rebuke at Sinai  
and judgements of vengeance at Horeb.

You anointed kings to inflict retribution,  
and prophets to succeed you.

You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire,  
in a chariot with horses of fire.

At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined  
to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury,  
to turn the hearts of parents to their children,  
and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

Happy are those who saw you  
and were adorned with your love!  
For we also shall surely live.

Here ends the First Lesson.

ECCLESIASTICUS 48.1-10

*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 COLLEGIUM MAGDALENÆ, Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)*

*Sit.*

## Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

As the disciples were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’ And the disciples asked him, ‘Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’ He replied, ‘Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.’ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.’ Jesus answered, ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.’ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.’ And they were greatly distressed.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

MATTHEW 17.9–23

*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 COLLEGIUM MAGDALENAE, Kenneth Leighton*

*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

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. 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* Richard Shephard

*Sit.*

## Anthem

Te lucis ante terminum  
rerum creator poscimus  
ut pro tua clementia  
sis praesul et custodia.

*Before the ending of the day,  
we beseech you, O Maker of all,  
that in your mercy  
you would be our guide and protector.*

Procul recedant somnia  
et noctium phantasmata  
hostemque nostrum comprime  
ne polluantur corpora.

*Let dreams and nightly fantasms  
be put far from us,  
and restrain our Enemy  
lest our bodies be defiled.*

Praesta, Pater piissime  
Patrique compar unice  
cum Spiritu Paraclito  
Regnans per omne saeculum.  
Amen.

*Protect us, O holy Father,  
who, coequal with the Son  
and with the Holy Spirit the Advocate,  
reign throughout all ages.  
Amen.*

*Words* Latin hymn for Compline, fifth/sixth century  
*Music* Henry Balfour Gardiner (1877–1950)

# Sermon

Canon Peter Collier, Cathedral Reader

*Stand.*

## Hymn



1. God of mercy, God of grace,  
    show the brightness of thy face:  
shine upon us, Saviour, shine,  
    fill thy Church with light divine;  
and thy saving health extend  
    unto earth's remotest end.
2. Let the people praise thee, Lord;  
    be by all that live adored:  
let the nations shout and sing,  
    glory to their Saviour King;  
at thy feet their tribute pay,  
    and thy holy will obey.
3. Let the people praise thee, Lord;  
    earth shall then her fruits afford;  
God to us his blessing give,  
    we to God devoted live;  
all below, and all above,  
    one in joy, and light, and love.

*Words* NEH 366, Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847) alt.

*Tune* HEATHLANDS, NEH 366, Henry Smart (1813–1879)

*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

Toccata in D minor

Max Reger (1873–1916)

*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](http://yorkminster.org/get-involved/community) or ask a steward or a member of the clergy for more information.*



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