



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

CHORAL EVENSONG

ON THE

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 8th March 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. 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

Today I rise, today I soar in splendour.
As the day keeps unveiling all her grandeur.
Let the chains of yesterday break away;
Today is here, I will not cling to yesterday.

Words Ozioma Ogbaji (b 1989)

Music Lucy Walker (b 1998)

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 Sasha Johnson Manning (b 1963)

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

Psalmody

I waited patiently for the Lord ♦
and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.

He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay ♦
and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth ♦
even a thanksgiving unto our God.

Many shall see it, and fear ♦
 and shall put their trust in the Lord.

Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord ♦
 and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.

O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, like as
 be also thy thoughts which are to us-ward ♦
 and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee:

If I should declare them, and speak of them ♦
 they should be more than I am able to express.

Sacrifice and meat-offering thou wouldest not ♦
 but mine ears hast thou opened.

Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required ♦
 then said I, Lo, I come,

In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will, O
 my God ♦ I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.

I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation ♦
 lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.

I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart ♦
 my talk hath been of thy truth and of thy salvation.

I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth ♦
 from the great congregation.

Withdraw not thou thy mercy from me, O Lord ♦
 let thy loving-kindness and thy truth always preserve me.

For innumerable troubles are come about me; my sins have taken such hold
 upon me that I am not able to look up ♦ yea, they are more in number than
 the hairs of my head, and my heart hath failed me.

O Lord, let it be thy pleasure to deliver me ♦
 make haste, O Lord, to help me.

Let them be ashamed and confounded together, that seek after my soul to
 destroy it ♦
 let them be driven backward and put to rebuke, that wish me evil.

Let them be desolate, and rewarded with shame ♦
 that say unto me, Fie upon thee, fie upon thee.

Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee ♦
 and let such as love thy salvation say always, The Lord be praised.

As for me, I am poor and needy ♦
 but the Lord careth for me.

Thou art my helper and redeemer ♦
make no long tarrying, O my God.

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 40

Sit.

First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Joshua.

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

Here ends the First Lesson.

JOSHUA 1.1-9

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 I. 46–55

Music THE ST JOHN'S SERVICE, Judith Weir (*b* 1954)

Sit.

Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

EPHESIANS 6.10–20

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 ST JOHN'S SERVICE, Judith Weir (*b* 1954)

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

We beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Sasha Johnson Manning

Sit.

Anthem

I saw eternity the other night,
Like a great ring of pure and endless light,
All calm, as it was bright.

Words Henry Vaughan (1621–1695)

Music Lucy Walker (b 1998)

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Maggie McLean, Missioner

Stand.

Hymn



1. Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free,
and make me pure within.
2. Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.
3. Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.
4. Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.
5. Lord Jesus, think on me,
when flows the tempest high:
when on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.
6. Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

Words NEH 70, Greek, Synesius of Cyrene (375–430)
translated into English by Allen William Chatfield (1808–1896)
Tune SOUTHWELL, NEH 70i, adapted from PSALM 45
in *The Psalmes in English Metre* (1579) by William Daman (c 1540–1591)

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

Fantasy (Suite No 1)

Florence Price (1887–1953)

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

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