

**YORK  
MINSTER**

The Cathedral & Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

**SOLEMN EVENSONG**

**THE CONVERSION OF PAUL**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 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

Ad te, Domine, levavi animam meam;  
Deus meus, in te confido:  
non erubescam, [neque irrideant me inimici mei].

*Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul;  
my God, I have put my trust in thee:  
O let me not be confounded, [neither let mine enemies triumph over me].*

Words PSALM 25.1 ♦ Music Anna Semple (b 1997)

*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* Philip Moore (b 1943)  
Master of the Music, York Minster, 1983–2008

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

## Psalmody

O think upon thy servant, as concerning thy world ♦  
wherein thou hast caused me to put my trust.

The same is my comfort in my trouble ♦  
for thy word hath quickened me.

The proud have had me exceedingly in derision ♦  
yet have I not shranked from thy law.

For I remembered thine everlasting judgements, O Lord ♦  
and received comfort.

I am horribly afraid ♦  
for the ungodly that forsake thy law.

Thy statutes have been my songs ♦  
in the house of my pilgrimage.

I have thought upon thy Name, O Lord, in the night-season ♦  
and have kept thy law.

This I had ♦  
because I kept thy commandments.

*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 119.49-56

*Sit.*

## First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

He seeks out the wisdom of all the ancients,  
    and is concerned with prophecies;  
he preserves the sayings of the famous  
    and penetrates the subtleties of parables;  
he seeks out the hidden meanings of proverbs  
    and is at home with the obscurities of parables.

He serves among the great  
    and appears before rulers;  
he travels in foreign lands  
    and learns what is good and evil in the human lot.

He sets his heart on rising early  
    to seek the Lord who made him,  
    and to petition the Most High;  
he opens his mouth in prayer  
    and asks pardon for his sins.

If the great Lord is willing,  
    he will be filled with the spirit of understanding;  
he will pour forth words of wisdom of his own  
    and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.

The Lord will direct his counsel and knowledge,  
    as he meditates on his mysteries.

He will show the wisdom of what he has learned,  
    and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.

Many will praise his understanding;  
    it will never be blotted out.

His memory will not disappear,  
    and his name will live through all generations.  
Nations will speak of his wisdom,  
    and the congregation will proclaim his praise.

Here ends the First Lesson.

ECCLESIASTICUS 39.1–10

*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 THE ORIEL SERVICE, Judith Bingham (b 1952)*

*Sit.*

## Second Lesson

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

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

COLOSSIANS 1.24– 2.7

*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 ORIEL SERVICE, Judith Bingham*

*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 God, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; 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* Philip Moore

*Sit.*

## Anthem

Beati quorum via integra est: qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are they whose way is blameless: who walk in the law of the Lord.*

*Words* PSALMS 119.1

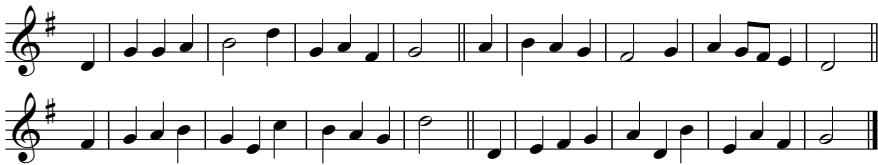
*Music* Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

## Sermon

The Reverend Canon Timothy Goode,  
Congregational Discipleship and Nurture

*Stand.*

## Hymn



1. Disposer supreme, and judge of the earth,  
who choosest for thine the weak and the poor,  
to frail earthen vessels, and things of no worth,  
entrusting thy riches which ay shall endure;
2. Throughout the wide world their message is heard,  
and swift as the wind it circles the earth;  
it echoes the voice of the heavenly Word,  
and brings unto mortals the hope of new birth.
3. Their cry thunders forth, 'Christ Jesus is Lord',  
then Satan doth fear, his citadels fall:  
as when those shrill trumpets were raised at thy word,  
and one long blast shattered proud Jericho's wall.
4. O loud be the call, and stirring the sound,  
to rouse us, O Lord, from sin's deadly sleep;  
may lights which thou kindlest in darkness around,  
the dull soul awaken, her vigil to keep.
5. All honour and praise, dominion and might,  
to thee, Three in One, eternally be,  
who pouring around us thy glorious light,  
dost call us from darkness thy glory to see.

*Words* NEH 216, Latin, Jean-Baptiste de Santeul (1630–1697)  
translated into English by Isaac Williams (1802–1865) and editors of the NEH  
*Tune* HANOVER, NEH 433, melody by William Croft (1678–1727)

*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

Allegro maestoso (Sonata in G)

Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

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