



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

SOLEMN EVENSONG

FOR THE EVE OF

MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

with commemoration of the Battle of Britain

Sunday 20th September 2026
at 4.00pm

Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this service Solemn Evensong for the Eve of Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. In this service we will also commemorate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Sir Winston Churchill described the events of Sunday 15th September 1940 as 'one of the decisive battles of the war.' In his immortal words, 'the gratitude of every home in our island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by the odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, turned the tide of the world war, by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.'



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 or regular giving set-up through the Parish Giving Scheme by following this QR code or calling 0333 002 1271.



Order of Service

At 3.50 pm, His Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, David Kerfoot, CBE, DL and the Lord Mayor of York and Sheriff of York are received by the Acting Dean.

At 3.55 pm, the Acting Dean welcomes the Congregation.

A bell is rung and prayers are sung.

Introit

Holy is the true light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict; from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.

Words Salisbury Diurnal

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 psalms but stand for the final Gloria.

Psalmody

I will always give thanks unto the Lord ♦
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord ♦
 the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
 O praise the Lord with me ♦
 and let us magnify his Name together.
 I sought the Lord, and he heard me ♦
 yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.
 They had an eye unto him, and were lightened ♦
 and their faces were not ashamed.
 Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him ♦
 yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.
 The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him ♦
 and delivereth them.
 O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is ♦
 blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
 O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints ♦
 for they that fear him lack nothing.
 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger ♦
 but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.
 Come, ye children, and hearken unto me ♦
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
 What man is he that lusteth to live ♦
 and would fain see good days?
 Keep thy tongue from evil ♦
 and thy lips, that they speak no guile.
 Eschew evil, and do good ♦
 seek peace, and ensue it.
 The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous ♦
 and his ears are open unto their prayers.
 The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil ♦
 to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
 The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them ♦
 and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
 The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart ♦
 and will save such as be of an humble spirit.
 Great are the troubles of the righteous ♦
 but the Lord delivereth him out of all.

He keepeth all his bones ♦
so that not one of them is broken.
But misfortune shall slay the ungodly ♦
and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants ♦
and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

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 34

Sit.

First Lesson

read by the Reverend John Hetherington, Chaplain, RAF Leeming

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Hear, you who are far away, what I have done;
and you who are near, acknowledge my might.
The sinners in Zion are afraid;
trembling has seized the godless:
‘Who among us can live with the devouring fire?
Who among us can live with everlasting flames?’
Those who walk righteously and speak uprightly,
who despise the gain of oppression,
who wave away a bribe instead of accepting it,
who stop their ears from hearing of bloodshed
and shut their eyes from looking on evil,
they will live on the heights;
their refuge will be the fortresses of rocks;
their food will be supplied, their water assured.

The Land of the Majestic King
Your eyes will see the king in his beauty;
they will behold a land that stretches far away.

Here ends the First Lesson.

ISAIAH 33.13–17

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 EVENING SERVICE IN F, Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Sit.

Second Lesson

read by the Reverend Canon Maggie McLean, Acting Dean

The Second Lesson is taken from the Gospel of Matthew.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

Here ends the Second Lesson.

MATTHEW 6.19–34

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 EVENING SERVICE IN F, Harold Darke

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 Almighty God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist: Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. 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

Remember for good, O Father, those whose names we commemorate before thee: to whom we render honour and give thanks in thy holy house. They went through the air and space without fear, and the shining stars marked their shining deeds. They counted not their lives dear unto themselves but laid them down for their friends.

O Christ, O Lord of Lords, prince of the armies of heaven, write their names in thy book of immortality. And give to them that on earth were faithful unto death, thy crown of life in the paradise of God.

Words Compiled by Eric Milner-White (1884–1863), Dean of York (1941–1963)

Music Francis Jackson (1917–2022), Organist of York Minster (1946–1982)

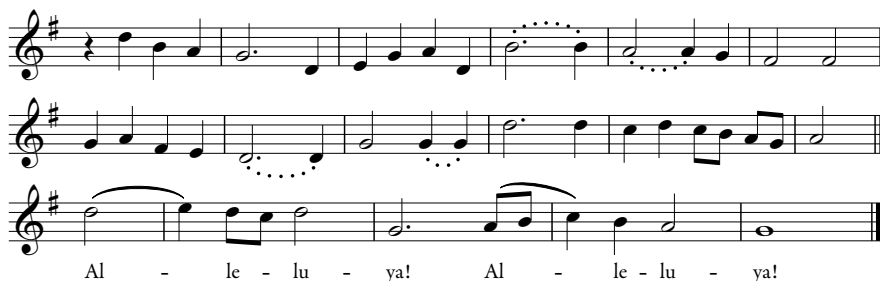
Sermon

The Reverend Canon James Milne, Precentor

Stand.

Hymn

during which the Book of Remembrance is borne to the head of the Quire.



1. For all the Saints who from their labours rest,
 who thee by faith before the world confest,
thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. *Alleluya! Alleluya!*
2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
 thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear their one true Light. *Alleluya! . . .*
3. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
 fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. *Alleluya! . . .*
4. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
 steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. *Alleluya! . . .*
5. The golden evening brightens in the west;
 soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest:
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest. *Alleluya! . . .*
6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
 through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Alleluya! . . .*

Words NEH 197, William Walsham How (1823–1897)

Tune SINE NOMINE, NEH 197, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Remain standing.

The Ceremony of the Turning of the Page

The Reverend David Simpson, Honorary Chaplain, RAFA York Branch and Honorary National Chaplain, ROCA and York 20 Group, says:

O Lord God, we give you humble and hearty thanks
for the deliverance granted our nation in the Battle of Britain.
We remember with deep thanksgiving those
who by their sacrifice won that deliverance.
We bring before you the sorrow of the bereaved,
the pains of the sick and the injured.
Comfort and relieve them, O Father,
according to your great mercy,
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*A page of the Book of Remembrance is turned on behalf
of the survivors of the Battle of Britain.*

The Act of Remembrance and Rededication

The Reverend David Simpson says:

Let us remember those who gave their lives in the Battle of Britain
and in the whole course of the Second World War.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
we will remember them.

We will remember them.

Silence is kept.

The Reverend David Simpson says:

Remember in your kingdom, O Lord Christ,
those who loved not their lives unto death,
but gave them freely for their country.
Shed forth upon them the light of your countenance,
and grant that they may be numbered among the host of the redeemed,
going forth conquering and to conquer with you, their everlasting Lord.
For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the Royal Air Force.

Almighty God,
who has promised that they who wait upon you
shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles.
We commend to your fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force.
Uplift and support them in their high endeavour,
that they may be a safeguard unto our most gracious
Sovereign Lord King Charles
and a sure defence to our homeland.
Help them to fulfil their several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity,
and grant that they may prove to be worthy successors of those,
who by their valour and sacrifice,
did nobly save their day and generation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remain standing.

Hymn

during which the Standards are returned to their bearers.



1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

2. There is a flowing river
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her —
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence —
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

3. Come, see the works of our maker,
learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world
when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator,
uplift him in the nations —
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Words AM 645, Richard Thomas Bewes (1934–2019) based on PSALM 46

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Tune DAMBUSTERS' MARCH, AM 645, Eric Coates (1886–1958)

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The Blessing

The Acting Dean, says:

God, who has prepared for you
a city with eternal foundations,
bring you, with all the saints,
to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

National Anthem



1. God save our gracious King,
 long live our noble King,
God save the King!
 Send him victorious,
happy and glorious,
 long to reign over us;
God save the King!

2. Thy choicest gifts in store
 on him be pleased to pour,
long may he reign;
 may he defend our laws,
and ever give us cause
 to sing with heart and voice
God save the King!

Words Anonymous

Tune NATIONAL ANTHEM, NEH 489, Thomas Arne (1710–1778)

Remain as quiet as possible as the procession departs, the Acting Dean escorts His Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and the Lord Mayor of York and Sheriff of York to the South Transept Door; the Standards are marched out of the Minster, and the choir sings the final prayer; this is followed by the organ voluntary which concludes the service.

Voluntary

Marche héroïque

Sir Herbert Brewer (1865–1928)

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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