



EVENSONG

ON

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 13 December 2020
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. We hope that this regular provision of choral worship will help us through the months ahead and the challenges of different restrictions due to the pandemic.

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.

Order of Service

A bell is rung and these prayers are sung:

O praise the Lord, ♦ all ye servants of the Lord.

Let us pray.

O Lord, open thou our lips and purify our hearts, that we may worthily magnify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O praise the Lord with me, ♦ and let us magnify his name together.

Introit

Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Ne irascaris Domine, ne ultra memineris iniquitatis:

ecce civitas Sancti facta est deserta: Sion deserta facta est:

Jerusalem desolata est: domus sanctificationis tuae et gloriae tuae, ubi laudaverunt te patres nostri.

Rorate caeli desuper et nubes pluant justum.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation: our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Words Advent Prose ♦ Music Chant

Preces

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

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

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.**

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

Music Matthew Martin (*b.* 1976)

Psalm

Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered ♦ let them also that hate him flee before him.

Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away ♦ and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God ♦ let them also be merry and joyful .

O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name ♦ magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name JAH, and rejoice before him.

He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows ♦ even God in his holy habitation.

He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity ♦ but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

O God, when thou wentest forth before the people ♦ when thou wentest through the wilderness;

The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God ♦ even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.

Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance ♦ and refreshedst it when it was weary.

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 68.1-9

First Lesson

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

Here ends the first lesson.

MALACHI 3.1-4; 4.1-6

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* SERVICE IN G, Francis Jackson (*b.* 1917)

Second Lesson

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the second lesson.

PHILIPPIANS 4. 4–7

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* SERVICE IN G, Francis Jackson

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, Responses and Collects

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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.**

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

O Lord, save the Queen;
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;
And bless thine inheritance.

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

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

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. 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 Spirit, 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 Matthew Martin

Anthem

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Say to them of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God, even God, he will come and save you.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:

For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And a highway shall be there: it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it: but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Words ISAIAH 35. 1–2, 4, 6, 8–10 ♦ *Music* S S Wesley (1810–76)

Sermon

The Revd Abigail Davison (Curate)

Following the sermon, there is an improvisation on an Advent hymn.

The Blessing

Voluntary

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J S Bach

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