



The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

**Matins and the
North Eastern Circuit
Annual Legal Service**



**attended by
His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire
High Sheriffs
His Majesty's Judges,
Magistrates
and members of the Legal Profession**

**Sunday 11th October 2026
at 11.00 am**

The Office of High Sheriff

The Office of High Sheriff has existed for over a millennium and precedes that of the Chancery as the oldest secular office under the Crown.

Only a High Sheriff may nominate a person to the Lord Chancellor and the Privy Council for consideration by the Sovereign to serve as High Sheriff. The annual nominations of three prospective High Sheriffs for each county are made on 12 November at a meeting of the Lords of the Council in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice presided over by the Lord Chief Justice. Subsequently the selection of the High Sheriff is made in March when the Sovereign, by tradition, 'pricks' the appointee's name with a silver bodkin. The Warrant of appointment is then received by the new High Sheriff.

The High Sheriff takes up the appointment for one year upon making a sworn declaration usually before a Judge of His Majesty's High Court of Justice. The High Sheriff is the Sovereign's representative in the county for all matters relating to the judiciary and the maintenance of law and order.

Other responsibilities of the High Sheriff include attendance at all Royal visits to the county; the well being and protection of His Majesty's High Court Judges when on circuit in the county and to attend them to Court in Legal Terms (in practice, protection of the judges, and the maintenance of law and order, is delegated to the Chief Constable); to be the returning officer for Parliamentary elections in county constituencies; and to be responsible for the Proclamation of Accession of a new Sovereign.

The Office of High Sheriff remained first in precedence in the counties until the reign of Edward VII when an Order in Council in 1908 gave the Lord Lieutenant the prime office under the Crown as the Sovereign's personal representative.

The Service

The Chapter of York—the governing body of the Minster—welcomes warmly all members of the congregation to this service. The service follows the order of Matins, the traditional morning service of the Church of England. In participating in this service, you are joining in the constant round of regular daily prayer that has been at the heart of the Minster's life through the centuries.

The service includes a sequence of psalms, readings and canticles, followed by the Creed and formal prayers ('collects')—a pattern that has remained virtually unchanged since the first English Prayer Book of 1549. It is followed by an anthem sung by the choir, an address, and prayers particularly suited to this morning's occasion.

Although this form of worship comes distinctively from the liturgical tradition of the Church of England, we hope that people of all faiths and traditions will find that many of its sentiments are such that they can sympathise with them.

As is customary at a cathedral service of this kind, much of the music is sung by the choir alone; members of the congregation are invited to join fully in singing the hymns, and in saying the words printed in bold type.

*The service is sung by the Choir of York Minster,
directed by Robert Sharpe, Director of Music, York Minster.*

The organ is played by Benjamin Morris, Assistant Director of Music.

The Fanfare Trumpeters of the West Yorkshire Police Band participate by kind permission of the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire.

At 10.52, the Canon Missioner welcomes the congregation and notices are given.

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, the Judges, the High Sheriffs and the Legal and Civic Procession are met by the Dean and Chapter representatives at the South Door.

Stand as a fanfare is sounded and organ music is played.

Order of Procession

An Under Sheriff

The Solicitors
Junior Counsel
King's Counsel

The Magistrates
The Coroners
The District Judges
The First Tier Tribunal Judges
The Circuit Judges

The High Sheriffs of
Northumberland, Durham, the East Riding of Yorkshire,
South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire
with their Chaplains and Under Sheriffs

The Civic Procession including
The Lord Mayor of York and The Sheriff of York

The Under Sheriff of North Yorkshire
The Chaplain to the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire
The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire

The King's Remembrancer

The High Court Judges

The Lord and Lady Justices of Appeal

The President of the King's Bench Division

A Justice of the Supreme Court

A Verger
The Dean
His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire
The Lord Lieutenant's Cadets

The Minster Procession

The Minster Choir
A Verger
The Succentor
The Preacher
The Chapter Steward
Lay Canons
Residentiary Canons
The Dean

Order of Service

Remain standing as the choir and clergy enter.

Processional Hymn



1. Hills of the North, rejoice;
 river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
 valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
 he brings salvation from above.
2. Isles of the Southern seas,
 sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
 hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
 his word is sure, his promise true.
3. Lands of the East, arise,
 he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
 praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
 to you he comes, the final word.
4. Shores of the utmost West,
 lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
 in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
 who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

5. Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.

Words AM 39, editors of *English Praise* (1975) based on Charles E Oakley (1832–1865)
Tune LITTLE CORNARD, AM 39, Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

Remain standing.

The Bidding and Lord's Prayer

The Dean says:

We have come together to worship God, to praise him for his blessings to us, to hear his holy word, and to bring before him in prayer the needs of the world. In particular, at the beginning of a new legal year, we pray that peace and justice may be maintained in our society, and we commend to God the work of all who are involved in the administration of the law.

All these our prayers and praises let us offer to God in the words our Saviour Jesus Christ commanded and taught us, praying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

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 Annabel Rooney (*b* 1973)

Remain standing.

Venite, exultemus Domino

O come, let us sing unto the Lord ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth ♦
and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it ♦
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God ♦
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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 as the choir sings the psalmody, but stand for the Gloria.

Psalmody

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart ♦
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name,
because of thy loving-kindness and truth ♦
for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

When I called upon thee, thou heardest me ♦
and enduedst my soul with much strength.

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord ♦
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord ♦
that great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly ♦
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me ♦
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies,
and thy right hand shall save me.

The lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me ♦ yea, thy mercy,
O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

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 138

Sit.

First Lesson

read by the Right Reverend Arun Arora,
Bishop of Kirkstall and Chaplain to the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire

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

Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom, do not let the mighty boast in their might, do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

Here ends the First Lesson.

JEREMIAH 9.23–24

Stand as the choir sings:

Te Deum Laudamus

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
 thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
 thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
 whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints
 in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

Music MORNING SERVICE in D, Sir George Dyson (1883–1964)

Sit.

Second Lesson

read by the Reverend James Gwyn-Thomas,
Chaplain to the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire

The Second Lesson is taken 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.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

PHILIPPIANS 4.4-9

Stand as the choir sings:

Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :
in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :
which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies :
and from the hands of all that hate us.
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham :
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :
for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God :
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness,
and in the shadow of death :
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Music MORNING SERVICE in D, Sir George Dyson

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, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; Mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Music Annabel Rooney

Sit.

Anthem

Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee. O let the nations rejoice and be glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase: and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing. God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him. God be merciful unto us, and bless us: and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us; That thy way may be known upon earth: thy saving health among all nations. 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 PSALM 67

Music William Mathias (1934–1992)

Sermon

The Reverend Dr Alan McCormack, Dean of Goodenough College

Kneel or remain seated.

Prayers of Intercession

led by the Reverend Canon Maggie McLean, Missioner

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and for the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for those who administer justice: for the High Sheriffs of North Yorkshire and the North Eastern Circuit and all High Sheriffs; for Judges and Magistrates and all who serve in our courts and tribunals; for Barristers, Solicitors, Chartered Legal Executives and all whose profession or expertise is the law; for the police, the probation and prison services, for all who work with children and families in our courts; and those who work with the vulnerable and the needy in our communities; and for members of the Armed Forces of the Crown; that they may be given the gifts of wisdom, compassion and courage, and that our nation may live increasingly in peace and security.

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the High Court of Parliament and for all who are set in authority in national and local government; for places of learning and all concerned with education; for the Health Service and all who work for healing; and for those who are concerned in the commercial and industrial life of our society.

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us remember before God those who are victims or perpetrators of crime; praying that those who have offended may have their lives reformed and those offended against may be restored; for all who are in prison whether convicted or on remand and for their families; and let us pray for those whose concern is the treatment of offenders.

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all who work in or pass through the family courts, remembering all those children whose futures are being determined there; for all families affected by care proceedings or interfamilial disputes; and for all those professionals who advise the courts and work with the families.

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the whole Church of God, and let us commend ourselves to him, praying for grace that we may be ready to serve both God and our neighbour, and that we might direct our lives according to his will.

Lord, hear us:

Lord, graciously hear us.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Stand to sing the hymn, during which a collection will be taken, the proceeds of which will be divided between the Police Treatment Centre, Harrogate and the ministry of York Minster. Gift Aid envelopes are available for those who are able to supplement their donations in this way.

Hymn



1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
 your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
 whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words NEH 239, Jan Struther (1901–1953)

Tune SLANE, NEH 239, traditional Irish melody

Remain standing.

Act of Commitment

The Dean says:

As we mark the beginning of a new legal year
let us commit ourselves afresh to fostering peace and administering justice.

United in the quest for truth,
will you seek out all that is honourable and righteous? **We will.**

United through membership of the legal profession,
will you maintain justice and do what is right? **We will.**

United by a heartfelt longing for peace,
will you work for harmony whether you find discord? **We will.**

United by a common desire for a just and fair society,
will you cherish and nurture the communities of which you are part? **We will.**

Inspired and refreshed by this gathering,
may we be faithful to all that we have pledged and promised this day.

Blessing

The Dean says:

God grant to the living, grace;
to the departed, rest;
to the Church, the King,
and all nations, peace and concord;
and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The 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 v1 Anonymous, v2 W E Hickson (1803–70)

Tune NATIONAL ANTHEM, Thomas Arne (1710–78)

Voluntary

Fantasia and Fugue in G

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

Remain standing as the processions leave the Minster.

Order of Procession

The Minster Procession

The Dean

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire

The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire

A Justice of the Supreme Court

The President of the King's Bench Division

The Lord and Lady Justices of Appeal

The High Court Judges

The King's Remembrancer

The Civic Procession

The Visiting High Sheriffs

The High Sheriffs' Chaplains
and Under Sheriffs

The Circuit Judges

The First Tier Tribunal Judges

The District Judges

The Coroners

The Magistrates

King's Counsel

Junior Counsel

The Solicitors

Members of the congregation are asked to remain in their places until invited to leave by the stewards.

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