



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
High Sheriffs
His Majesty's Judges,
Magistrates
and members of the Legal Profession

**Sunday 12th October 2025
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 Chancellorship 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 10.57, the Canon for Congregational Discipleship and Nurture 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 and Notary Public
Junior Counsel
King's Counsel

The Magistrates
The Coroners
The District Judges
The Circuit Judges

The High Sheriffs of
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, 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 Acting Chaplain to the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire
The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire

The King's Remembrancer

The High Court Judges

The Lord Justices of Appeal

The Deputy President of the Supreme Court

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

The Minster Procession

The Minster Choir
A Verger
The Succentor
The Preacher
Provincial Canon
Lay Canons
Residentiary Canons
The Dean

Order of Service

Remain standing as the choir and clergy enter.

Processional Hymn



1. O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old:
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.
4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender! How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.
6. O measureless Might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

Words NEH 433, Robert Grant (1779–1838)

Tune HANOVER, NEH 433, melody by William Croft (1678–1727)
in *A Supplement to the New Version* (1708)

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.**

The choir sings:

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)

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

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire ♦
hearken unto me for thy truth and righteousness' sake.

And enter not into judgement with thy servant ♦
for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the
ground ♦ he hath laid me in the darkness, as the men that have been long dead.

Therefore is my spirit vexed within me ♦
and my heart within me is desolate.

Yet do I remember the time past; I muse upon all thy works ♦
yea, I exercise myself in the works of thy hands.

I stretch forth my hands unto thee ♦
my soul gaspeth unto thee as a thirsty land.

Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint ♦
hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

O let me hear thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in thee is my trust ♦
shew thou me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies ♦
for I flee unto thee to hide me.

Teach me to do a thing that pleaseth thee, for thou art my God ♦
let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.

Quicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake ♦
and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

And of thy goodness slay mine enemies ♦
and destroy all them that vex my soul; for I am thy servant.

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 143

Sit.

First Lesson

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

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

JEREMIAH 29.1, 4-7

Here ends the First Lesson.

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 F, John Ireland (1879–1962)

Sit.

Second Lesson

read by the Venerable Clive Mansell,
Acting Chaplain to the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

2 TIMOTHY 2:8–15

Here ends the Second Lesson.

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 F, John Ireland

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, Lord's Prayer, Responses and Collects

The choir sings:

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

The congregation kneels or sits.

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 King.
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.

The Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for Peace

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.

The Collect for Grace

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.

Sit.

Anthem

I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is builded as a city: that is at unity in itself.
O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Words PSALM 122.1-3, 6, 7

Music Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918)

Sermon

The Reverend Lucy Winkett, Rector of St James, Piccadilly

Kneel or remain seated.

Prayers of Intercession

led by His Honour Canon Peter Collier, KC, Cathedral Reader

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 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 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 Ghost,
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. Judge eternal, throned in splendour,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with thy living fire of judgement
purge this realm of bitter things:
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of thy wings. | 2. Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release:
and the city's crowded clangour
cries aloud for sin to cease;
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace. |
| 3. Crown, O God, thine own endeavour;
cleave our darkness with thy sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of thy word:
cleans the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord. | |

Words NEH 490, Henry Scott Holland (1847–1918)
Tune RHUDDLAN, NEH 490, melody in Edward Jones's
Musical Relicks of Welsh Bards (1800)

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

Toccata

Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

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

The Deputy President of the Supreme Court

The Lord 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 District Judges

The Coroners

The Magistrates

King's Counsel

Junior Counsel

The Solicitors and Notary Public

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

Some of the material in this Order of Service is reproduced from *The Book of Common Prayer*, the rights in which are vested in the Crown. It is reproduced by permission of the Crown's Patentee, Cambridge University Press. The texts of the Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (Anglicized edition), copyright © 1989, 1994 the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. The words of copyright hymns and songs are reproduced under CCL 270217. Copyright music is reproduced under MRL 941175. This compilation is copyright © 2025 The Chapter of York. The Chapter of York (York Minster) is a Registered Charity (Number 1201499).