



**MUSIC AND READINGS
FOR LENT**

**SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022
AT 4.00PM**

Introduction

Welcome to Minster for this Sequence of Music and Readings for Lent.

The Paschal Cycle of seasonal time, which begins on Ash Wednesday, encompasses Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week and Eastertide, and ends on the Day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter Day. This cycle of time explores the saving work of God, through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This year's meditation in music and readings takes place on the Third Sunday in Lent, as part of our journey of faith towards Holy Week and Easter.

We begin with a reflection on the human condition. As Charles Causley reminds us, God reveals his presence in creation, in those with whom we share our lives, in those who are cast out, in the concept of truth and through his spirit; however, we can separate ourselves from him by our failure to recognise or respond to him. Nevertheless, God remains faithful and reveals himself to his chosen people Israel. The true extent of God's love for the world is shown when when Christ, the Son of God, submits to death at the hands of those he was come to save. We are called to respond to this love, in penitence and faith, through the love which we show for one another and to acknowledge the saving work of Christ on the cross. As the second letter to the Corinthians says: 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself.' This is the ground of our hope, in which we set aside our own concerns and look to Jesus, 'the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.' (Hebrews 12.2).

Music before the Service

Herzliebster Jesu

Gabriel Jackson

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A Minister welcomes the congregation.

The Precentor and choir sing prayers in the South Quire Aisle.

Please stand at the entrance of the choir and ministers.

The Gathering

A Minister says:

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

PSALM 51.17

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,
that freed from the misery of sin and shame
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The congregation sits as the choir sings:

Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy Spirit.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart thou wilt
not despise, O God.

Make me to hear joy and gladness: that the bones which thou hast broken may
rejoice.

Words Psalm 51. 11, 12, 17, 8 ♦ *Music* S S Wesley (1810–76)

A Minister says:

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings and Music

First Reading

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,
 I am your husband, but you turn away.
I am the captive, but you do not free me,
 I am the captain but you will not obey.
I am the truth, but you will not believe me,
 I am the city where you will not stay.
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,
 I am that God to whom you will not pray.
I am your counsel, but you will not hear me,
 I am your lover whom you will betray.
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,
 I am the holy dove whom you will slay.
I am your life, but if you will not name me,
 Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.

I AM THE GREAT SUN (from a Normandy crucifix of 1632)
Charles Causley (1917–2003)

The choir sings:

He made the stars also, and God set them in the firmament of the heaven,
to give light upon the earth; and God saw that it was good.

Words from GENESIS 1

Music Sarah MacDonald (*b.* 1968)

Second Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,

'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

The choir sings:

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us;
save us and help us we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Words from the Liturgy of Good Friday

Music Frederick Arthur Gore Ouseley (1825–89)

Third Reading

A reading from the Gospel of John.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

JOHN 3. 16–21

The choir sings:

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.

If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love.

Love one another as I have loved you. Then shall your joy be complete.

Words Song of Solomon 8.6–7 and John 15.9–12 ♦ *Music* Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Fourth Reading

A reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

1 JOHN 4.7-19

The choir sings:

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back.
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
 If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
 Love said, You shall be he.
I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
 Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
 My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
 So I did sit and eat.

Words George Herbert (1593–1632) ♦ *Music* Judith Weir (*b.* 1954)

Fifth Reading

A reading from the Gospel of John.

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

JOHN 19. 23–27

The congregation kneels or remains seated.

The Prayers

A Minister says:

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father
and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For candidates for baptism and confirmation,
that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the needy,
that they may not be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the sick in body, mind and spirit,
that they may know your power to heal,
we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the poor in spirit,
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven
and see you face to face, we pray to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,
to the mercy and protection of God.

The choir sings:

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam: et secundum
multitudinem miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam.

*Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of
thy mercies do away mine offences.*

Words Psalm 51.1 ♦ *Music* William Byrd (1539/40–1623)

Silence is kept.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Hymn



1. O Christ, who art the Light and Day
thou drivest darksome night away!
we know thee as the Light of light,
illuminating mortal sight.
2. All-holy Lord, we pray to thee,
keep us tonight from danger free;
grant us, dear Lord, in thee to rest,
so be our sleep in quiet blest.
3. And while the eyes soft slumber take,
still be the heart to thee awake;
be thy right hand upheld above
thy servants resting in thy love.
4. O strong defender, be thou nigh
to bid the powers of darkness fly;
keep us from sin, and guide for good
thy servants purchased by thy blood.
5. Remember us, dear Lord, we pray
while in this mortal flesh we stay;
'tis thou who dost the soul defend—
be present with us to the end.
6. Blest Three in One and One in Three,
Almighty God, we pray to thee
that thou wouldst now vouchsafe to bless
our fast with fruits of righteousness. Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessing

A Minister says:

God,
who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Voluntary

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

J S Bach