



## CHORAL EVENSONG

**Saturday 20 March 2021**  
**at 5.30pm**

## Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster and to this live-streamed service of Choral Evensong. 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 his hosts.  
*Ye servants of his that do his pleasure.*

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy glorious resurrection hast sanctified a day of rest for thy people, grant that we dying unto sin and rising again to newness of life may worthily offer up our prayers and praises to thy honour and glory. Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

Thou art worthy at all times to be hymned with holy voices,  
Son of God, giver of life.  
*Therefore the world glorifies thee. Amen.*

### Introit

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me, O hide not thy face in the time of my trouble: incline thine ear unto me, O Lord, O hear me and that right soon.

*Words* Psalm 102.1, 2 ♦ *Music* Thomas Tomkins (1573–1656)

### 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* Francis Jackson (b. 1917)

## Psalm

Praise the Lord, O my soul ♦ O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious; thou art clothed with majesty and honour.

Thou deckest thyself with light as it were with a garment ♦ and spreadest out the heavens like a curtain.

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters ♦ and maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind.

He maketh his angels spirits ♦ and his ministers a flaming fire.

He laid the foundations of the earth ♦ that it never should move at any time.

Thou coveredst it with the deep like as with a garment ♦ the waters stand in the hills.

At thy rebuke they flee ♦ at the voice of thy thunder they are afraid.

They go up as high as the hills, and down to the valleys beneath ♦ even unto the place which thou hast appointed for them.

Thou hast set them their bounds which they shall not pass ♦ neither turn again to cover the earth.

He sendeth the springs into the rivers ♦ which run among the hills.

All beasts of the field drink thereof ♦ and the wild asses quench their thirst.

Beside them shall the fowls of the air have their habitation ♦ and sing among the branches.

He watereth the hills from above ♦ the earth is filled with the fruit of thy works.

He bringeth forth grass for the cattle ♦ and green herb for the service of men;

That he may bring food out of the earth, and wine that maketh glad the heart of man ♦ and oil to make him a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord also are full of sap ♦ even the cedars of Libanus which he hath planted;

Wherein the birds make their nests ♦ and the fir-trees are a dwelling for the stork.

The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats ♦ and so are the stony rocks for the conies.

He appointed the moon for certain seasons ♦ and the sun knoweth his going down.

Thou makest darkness that it may be night ♦ wherein all the beasts of the forest do move.

The lions roaring after their prey ♦ do seek their meat from God.

The sun ariseth, and they get them away together ♦ and lay them down in their dens.

Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labour ♦ until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works ♦ in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches.

So is the great and wide sea also ♦ wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦ whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

These wait all upon thee ♦ that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

When thou givest it them they gather it ♦ and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.

When thou hidest thy face they are troubled ♦ when thou takest away their breath they die, and are turned again to their dust.

When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made ♦ and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

The glorious majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever ♦ the Lord shall rejoice in his works.

The earth shall tremble at the look of him ♦ if he do but touch the hills, they shall smoke.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live ♦ I will praise my God while I have my being.

And so shall my words please him ♦ my joy shall be in the Lord.

As for sinners, they shall be consumed out of the earth, and the ungodly shall come to an end ♦ praise thou the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.

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 104

## First Lesson

A reading from the book Ezra.

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared:

‘Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them!—are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill-offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.’

The heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites—everyone whose spirit God had stirred—got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. All their neighbours aided them with silver vessels, with gold, with goods, with animals, and with valuable gifts, besides all that was freely offered. King Cyrus himself brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. King Cyrus of Persia had them released into the charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah. And this was the inventory: gold basins, thirty; silver basins, one thousand; knives, twenty-nine; gold bowls, thirty; other silver bowls, four hundred and ten; other vessels, one thousand; the total of the gold and silver vessels was five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar brought up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

Here ends the first lesson.

EZRA I

## 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 E, Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

## Second Lesson

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Indeed, this is our boast, the testimony of our conscience: we have behaved in the world with frankness and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God—and all the more towards you. For we write to you nothing other than what you can read and also understand; I hope you will understand until the end— as you have already understood us in part—that on the day of the Lord Jesus we are your boast even as you are our boast.

Since I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a double favour; I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on to Judea. Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say 'Yes, yes' and 'No, no' at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been 'Yes and No.' For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not 'Yes and No'; but in him it is always 'Yes.'

Here ends the second lesson.

2 CORINTHIANS 1.12-19

## 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* FIRST SERVICE, Philip Moore

## 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**

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.**

## The Collects

We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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* Francis Jackson

## Anthem

Incipit lamentatio Hieremiae Prophetae.

*Aleph.* Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena populo?  
Facta est quasi vidua domina gentium: princeps provinciarum, facta est sub tributo.

*Beth.* Plorans ploravit, in nocte, et lacrimae ejus in maxillis ejus: non est qui consoletur eam, ex omnibus caris ejus; omnes amici ejus spreverunt eam, et facti sunt ei inimici

Hierusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.

*Here begin the lamentations of the prophet Jeremiah.*

*Aleph.* A city once full of people now sits empty! How like a widow has she become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the cities has become a vassal.

*Beth.* Bitterly she weeps in the night; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies.

*Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.*

*Words* Lamentations 1.1–2 ♦ *Music* Thomas Tallis (c. 1505–85)

## Prayers of Intercession

### Hymn

Jesu, lover of my soul,  
let me to thy bosom fly,  
while the nearer waters roll,  
while the tempest still is high:  
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past;  
safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none;  
hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
all my help from thee I bring;  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;  
more than all in thee I find;  
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,  
heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Just and holy is thy name,  
I am all unrighteousness;  
False and full of sin I am,  
thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
grace to cover all my sin;  
let the healing streams abound;  
make and keep me pure within:  
thou of life the fountain art;  
freely let me take of thee;  
spring thou up within my heart,  
rise to all eternity.

*Words* Charles Wesley (1707–88)

*Tune* ABERYSTWYTH NEH 383, Joseph Parry (1841–1903)

## The Blessing

### Voluntary

Psalm Prelude Set 2, No 1

Herbert Howells

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