



**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**ON THE**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER 2021**  
**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.

*Please stand as the procession enters.*

## Introit

Lord for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:  
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart, before thee now and evermore. Amen.

*Words* John Bull (c. 1563–1628) from *Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations*  
*Music* Richard Farrant (c. 1530–80)

## 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* Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

*Please sit for the singing of the psalms but stand for the final Gloria.*

## **Psalm**

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks ♦ yea, unto thee do we give thanks.

Thy Name also is so high ♦ and that do thy wondrous works declare.

When I receive the congregation ♦ I shall judge according unto right.

The earth is weak, and all the inhabitants thereof ♦ I bear up the pillars of it.

I said unto the fools, Deal not so madly ♦ and to the ungodly, Set not up your horn.

Set not up your horn on high ♦ and speak not with a stiff neck.

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west ♦ nor yet from the south.

And why? God is the Judge ♦ he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red ♦ it is full mixed, and he poureth out of the same.

As for the dregs thereof ♦ all the ungodly of the earth shall drink them, and suck them out.

But I will talk of the God of Jacob ♦ and praise him for ever.

All the horns of the ungodly also will I break ♦ and the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

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 75

*Please sit.*

## **First Lesson**

The First Lesson is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Here ends the First Lesson.

*Please stand.*

## **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* EVENING SERVICE IN G, Francis Jackson (*b.* 1907)

*Please sit.*

## **Second Lesson**

The Second Lesson is from the Gospel of Luke.

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord.

But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Here ends the Second Lesson.

LUKE 1.1-25

*Please stand.*

## 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* EVENING SERVICE IN G, Francis Jackson

*Please remain standing.*

## 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.

*Please sit or kneel.*

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

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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 Ghost, 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* Richard Shephard

*Please sit.*

## 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 Dr Catherine Reid

Chaplain to the University of York and Honorary Minor Canon

*Please stand.*

## Hymn



Creator of the stars of night,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
of all creation doomed to die,  
didst come to save a ruined race  
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
as drew the world to evening-tide,  
proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, exalted now,  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,  
and things in heaven and earth shall own  
that thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O holy One, we pray,  
our judge in that tremendous day,  
preserve us, while we dwell below,  
from every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Words* Latin, translated by J M Neale (1818–66)  
*Tune* CONDITOR ALME, NEH I, Mode iv

*Please remain standing.*

## The Blessing

## Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

J S Bach