



Choral Evensong

On the Eve of Holy Cross Day

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

6.00pm

The officiant gives

The Welcome and Opening Sentence

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him
must worship him in spirit and in truth.

St John 4: 24

The Officiant and people sing

The Responses *Ferial*

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.

All 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.**

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

All sit. The choir sings

Psalm 66

O be joyful in God, all ye lands: sing praises unto the honour of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works: through the greatness
of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

For all the world shall worship thee: sing of thee, and praise thy name.

O come hither, and behold the works of God: how wonderful he is in his
doing toward the children of men.

He turned the sea into dry land: so that they went through the water on foot;
there did we rejoice thereof.

He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people: and such as
will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

O praise our God, ye people: and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
who holdeth our soul in life: and suffereth not our feet to slip.

For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the snare: and laidest trouble upon our loins.

Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads: we went through fire and water,
and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings: and will pay thee my vows,
which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in
trouble.

I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams: I will offer bullocks and goats.

O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God: and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.

I called unto him with my mouth: and gave him praises with my tongue.

If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart: the Lord will not hear me.

But God hath heard me: and considered the voice of my prayer.

Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer: nor turned his mercy from me.

All stand.

Ivor Atkins (1869–1953)

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.

All sit for

The Old Testament Lesson

Here begins the thirteenth verse of the fifty-second chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

So ends the first lesson.

Isaiah 52: 13–end

All stand. The Choir sings

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.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)
Evening Service in B flat
St Luke 1: 46–55

All sit for

The New Testament Lesson

Here begins the eleventh verse of the second chapter of St Paul's epistle to the Ephesians.

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

So ends the second lesson.

Ephesians 2: 11–end

All stand. The Choir sings

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.

*Charles Villiers Stanford
Evening Service in B flat
St Luke 2: 29–32*

All remain standing to say

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 Officiant and people sing

The Lesser Litany, The Lord's Prayer, and Responses

The Lord be with you;
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

All kneel or sit.

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:

Almighty God, who in the passion of thy dear Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; through the same 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.**

All remain kneeling or remain seated for

The Prayers of Intercession

At the end of the Prayers all say:

**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.**

All stand to sing

The Office Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Rockingham 95 NEH

