

# CHORAL EVENSONG

With the Gentlemen of the Choir of the Chapel Royal  
St James' Palace



19 September 2026



St George's Cathedral, Kingston

Versicles & Responses: Stephen Cleobury 1948-2019

Setting: *Evening Service in G*, Herbert Sumsion 1899-1995

*Please stand, as you are able, as the choir and clergy enter the Cathedral*

## The Introit

O Lord, I lift my heart to thee,  
my soul in thee doth ever trust.  
O let me not confounded be,  
but make me righteous with the just.

Thomas Tomkins 1572-1656

*The Teares or Lamentacions of a Sorrowfull Soule*, 1614,  
William Leighton

*Minister.* O LORD, open thou our lips;

*Choir.* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Minister.* O God, make speed to save us;

*Choir.* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Minister.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Choir.* As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Minister.* Praise ye the Lord;

*Choir.* The Lord's Name be praised.

*Please sit.*

## Psalm 138

WILL give thanks unto thee, O LORD, with my whole heart: / even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

2 I will worship toward thy holy temple and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth; / for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

3 When I called upon thee, thou heardest me, / and enduedst my soul with much strength.

4 ALL the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD; / for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

5 Yea, they shall sing of the ways of the LORD; / for great is the glory of the LORD.

6 For though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: / as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

7 THOUGH I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me: / thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the fury of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

8 The LORD shall fulfil his purpose toward me: / yea, thy mercy, O LORD, endureth for ever; forsake not then the works of thine own hands.

The First Lesson is written in the book of Jeremiah, in the 39<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the first verse.

In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it. And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up. And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain. But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem. Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained. But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard, saying, Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee. So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the king of Babylon's princes; even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

Now the word of the Lord came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying, Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee. But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the Lord: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the Lord.

Here endeth the first lesson.

## The Office Hymn



Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
self denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary didst go.

*Mannheim*

Friedrich Filitz 1804-1876

James Edmeston 1791-1867

*Please remain standing*

## Magnificat. St Luke 1. 46

**M**Y soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. 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 showed 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.*

*Please sit*

The Second Lesson is written in the Gospel of John, in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 45<sup>th</sup> verse.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done.

Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish

not. And this spake he not of himself; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death. Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples.

And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves. Then sought they for Jesus, and spake among themselves, as they stood in the temple, What think ye, that he will not come to the feast? Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

Here endeth the second lesson.

*Please stand*

### Nunc Dimittis. St Luke 2.29.

**L**ORD, 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.*

*Please remain standing*

**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.*

*Minister:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**O**UR Father which 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

*Minister:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Minister:* O Lord, save the King;

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Minister:* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Minister:* O Lord, save thy people;

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Minister:* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Minister:* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

**O** LORD, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**O** LORD Jesus Christ, who in thy earthly life didst share man's toil, and thereby hallow the labour of his hands: Prosper all those who maintain the industries of this land; and give them pride in their work, a just reward for their labour, and joy both in supplying the needs of others and in serving thee their Saviour; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*The Second Collect, for Peace.*

**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 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.*

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils.*

**L**IGHTEN 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.*

*Please sit.*

## The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Paul Wright LVO, Sub Dean HM Chapel Royal

## The Anthem

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:  
From whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord:  
Which made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:  
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.  
Behold, he that keepeth Israel:  
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

## The Prayers

*Please sit or kneel*

**B**E mindful, O Lord, of thy people bowed before thee, and of those who are absent through age, sickness, or infirmity. Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, encourage the faint-hearted, collect the scattered, and bring the wandering to thy fold. Travel with the voyagers, defend the widows, shield the orphans, deliver the captives, heal the sick. Succour all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress. Remember for good all those that love us, and those that hate us, and those that have desired us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them. And those whom we have forgotten, do thou, O Lord, remember. For thou art the Helper of the helpless, the Saviour of the lost, the Refuge of the wanderer, the Healer of the sick. Thou, who knowest each man's need, and hast heard his prayer, grant unto each according to thy merciful loving-kindness and thy eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy Word, that the hearts of Kings are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom: We humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of CHARLES thy servant, our King and Governor, that in all his thoughts, words, and works, he may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness: Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**L**ORD of all power and mercy, we beseech thee to assist with thy favour the Prime Minister of this Dominion, and the Premiers of the Provinces. Cause them, we pray thee, to walk before thee in truth and righteousness, and to fulfil their office to thy glory and the public good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common applications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

## The Blessing

**T**HE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Hymn



Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and  
salvation:  
all ye who hear,  
now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper  
thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy  
shall daily attend thee:  
ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
if to the end he befriend thee.

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
so wondrously reigneth,  
shieldeth thee gently from harm,  
or when fainting sustaineth:  
hast thou not seen  
how thy heart's wishes have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me  
adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for aye we adore him!

*Lobe den herren*  
Anonymous 1665

Joachim Neander 1650-80  
*tr.* Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

*Please remain standing for the recession.*

The Gentlemen of the Choir of His Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James' Palace  
Tim Horton, Director of Music

The Reverend Canon Paul Wright LVO, Sub Dean HM Chapel Royal, Preacher  
The Right Reverend William Cliff, Bishop of Ontario  
The Very Reverend Douglas Michael, Dean of Ontario