

CHORAL EVENSONG

21 October 2026 7:00pm



St George's Cathedral, Kingston

Cover: *Evensong*, Henry Mark Anthony 1817–1886

Versicles & Responses: Smith

Setting: *Evening Service in B flat*, Stanford

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

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 106

ISRAEL made a calf in Horeb, / and worshipped the molten image.

21 Thus they changed their Glory / for the likeness of a calf that eateth hay.

22 And they forgot God their Saviour, / who had done so great things in Egypt,

23 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, / and fearful things by the Red Sea.

24 So he said he would have destroyed them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the gap, / to
turn away his wrathful indignation, lest he should destroy them.

25 Yea, they thought scorn of that pleasant land, / and gave no credence unto his word;

26 But murmured in their tents, / and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

27 Then lift he up his hand and sware to them, / that he would overthrow them in the wilderness,

28 And that he would scatter their seed among the nations, / and disperse them in the lands.

29 THEY joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, / and ate the offerings of the dead.

30 Thus they provoked him to anger with their own inventions; / and the plague broke out among them.

31 Then stood up Phinehas and executed judgement, / and so the plague ceased.

32 And that was counted unto him for righteousness, / unto all generations for evermore.

33 They angered him also at the Waters of Strife, / so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes;

34 Because they provoked his spirit, / so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

35 THEY did not destroy the peoples, / as the LORD commanded them;

36 But were mingled among the nations, / and learned their works.

37 Insomuch that they worshipped their idols, which turned to their own decay: / yea, they offered their
sons and their daughters unto demons;

38 And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, / whom they offered
unto the idols of Canaan; and the land was defiled with blood.

39 Thus were they stained with their own works, / and went a whoring with their own inventions.

40 THEREFORE was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people, / insomuch that he abhorred his
own inheritance.

41 And he gave them over into the hand of the nations; / and they that hated them were lords over them.
42 Their enemies oppressed them, / and had them in subjection.
43 Many a time did he deliver them; / but they rebelled against him with their own inventions, and were brought down in their wickedness.
44 Nevertheless, he regarded their adversity, / when he heard their complaint.
45 For their sake he thought upon his covenant, / and relented according to the multitude of his mercies.
46 Yea, he made them also to be pitied / by all those that led them away captive.
47 **DELIVER** us, O **LORD** our God, and gather us from among the nations, / that we may give thanks unto thy holy Name, and make our boast of thy praise.
48 **BLESSED** be the **LORD**, the God of Israel, from everlasting and world without end: / and let all the people say, ‘Amen.’

The First Lesson is written in the book of Nehemiah, in the 5th chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish kin. For there were those who said, ‘With our sons and our daughters, we are many; we must get grain, so that we may eat and stay alive.’ There were also those who said, ‘We are having to pledge our fields, our vineyards, and our houses in order to get grain during the famine.’ And there were those who said, ‘We are having to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay the king’s tax. Now our flesh is the same as that of our kindred; our children are the same as their children; and yet we are forcing our sons and daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been ravished; we are powerless, and our fields and vineyards now belong to others.’

I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints. After thinking it over, I brought charges against the nobles and the officials; I said to them, ‘You are all taking interest from your own people.’ And I called a great assembly to deal with them, and said to them, ‘As far as we were able, we have bought back our Jewish kindred who had been sold to other nations; but now you are selling your own kin, who must then be bought back by us!’ They were silent, and could not find a word to say. So I said, ‘The thing that you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God, to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us stop this taking of interest. Restore to them, this very day, their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the interest on money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.’ Then they said, ‘We will restore everything and demand nothing more from them. We will do as you say.’ And I called the priests, and made them take an oath to do as they had promised. I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, ‘So may God shake out everyone from house and from property who does not perform this promise. Thus may they be shaken out and emptied.’ And all the assembly said, ‘Amen’, and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor. The former governors who were before me laid heavy

burdens on the people, and took food and wine from them, besides forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God. Indeed, I devoted myself to the work on this wall, and acquired no land; and all my servants were gathered there for the work. Moreover, there were at my table one hundred and fifty people, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. Now that which was prepared for one day was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and every ten days skins of wine in abundance; yet with all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because of the heavy burden of labour on the people. Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

Here endeth the first lesson.

The Office Hymn *(please remain standing)*



As now the sun's declining rays
at eventide descend,
so life's brief day is sinking down
to its appointed end.

3 All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run. Amen.

2 Lord, on the cross thine arms were stretched
to draw thy people nigh:
O grant us then that cross to love,
and in those arms to die.

St Peter
Alexander Reinagle 1799-1877

Latin, Charles Coffin 1675-1749
tr. John Chandler 1806-76
REH 330

Please remain standing

Magnificat. St Luke 1. 46

MY 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 by the Hebrews, in the 11th chapter, beginning at the seventeenth verse.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, ‘It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.’ He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead—and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked blessings for the future on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, ‘bowing in worship over the top of his staff.’ By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.¹¹

By faith Moses was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the child was beautiful; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called a son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, unafraid of the king’s anger; for he persevered as though he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Here endeth the second lesson.

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis. St Luke 2.29.

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.*

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.

OUR 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 ALMIGHTY, and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.

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.*

Please sit.

The Anthem

O sing joyfully unto God our strength:
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret;
the merry harp with the lute.

Blow up the trumpet in the new moon:
e'en in the time appointed, and upon our
solemn feastday.
For this was made a statute for Israel:
and a law of the God of Jacob.

Trad. *arr* by Charles Wood

Psalm 81:1-4

The Prayers

Please sit or kneel

O HEAVENLY Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: Kindle, we pray thee, in the hearts of all people the true love of peace, and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

EVERLIVING God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications 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.*

2 Corinthians 13:14.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Hymn



God, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May thine angel-guards defend us,
Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night.

2 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping;
And, when we die,
May we in thy mighty keeping
All peaceful lie:
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Do not thou our God forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With thee on high.

Arh yd y nos
Welsh Traditional Melody

v 1 Reginald Heber 1783-1826
v 2 Richard Whately 1787-1863

Please remain standing for the recession.