CHORAL EVENSONG

04 November 2026 7:00pm



St George's Cathedral, Kingston

Cover: The Ghent Altarpiece, 1432

Versicles & Responses: Ferial
Setting: *Evening Service in E flat*, Bairstow

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 20. Exaudiat te Dominus.

THE LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; / the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
2 Send thee help from the sanctuary, / and strengthen thee out of Sion;
3 Remember all thy offerings, / and accept thy burnt sacrifice;
4 Grant thee thy heart's desire, / and fulfil all thy mind.
5 We will rejoice in thy salvation, and triumph in the Name of our God: / the LORD perform all thy petitions.
6 Now know I that the LORD helpeth his anointed, and will hear him from his holy heaven, / even with the wholesome strength of his right hand.
7 Some put their trust in chariots, and some in horses; / but we will remember the Name of the LORD our God.
8 They are brought down, and fallen; / but we are risen and stand upright.
9 O LORD, save the king, / and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

PSALM 21. Domine, in virtute tua.

THE king shall rejoice in thy strength, O LORD; / exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation.
2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, / and hast not denied him the request of his lips.
3 For thou dost meet him with the blessings of goodness, / and settest a crown of pure gold upon his head.
4 He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it to him, / even length of days for evermore.
5 His honour is great in thy salvation; / glory and great worship dost thou lay upon him.
6 For thou dost give him everlasting felicity, / and makest him glad with the joy of thy countenance.
7 And why? because the king putteth his trust in the LORD; / and in the mercy of the Most High he shall not miscarry.
8 ALL thine enemies shall feel thy hand; / thy right hand shall find out them that hate thee.
9 Thou shalt make them like a fiery oven in time of thy wrath: / the LORD shall destroy them in his displeasure, and the fire shall consume them.

10 Their offspring shalt thou root out of the earth, / and their seed from among the children of men.
11 For they intended mischief against thee, / and imagined such a device as they were not able to perform.
12 Therefore shalt thou put them to flight, / and the strings of thy bow shalt thou make ready against the face of them.
13 BE thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength; / so will we sing, and praise thy power.

The First Lesson is written in the book of Ecclesiastes, in the 4st chapter, beginning at the first verse.

Again I saw all the oppressions that are practised under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed—with no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power—with no one to comfort them. And I thought the dead, who have already died, more fortunate than the living, who are still alive; but better than both is the one who has not yet been, and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from one person's envy of another. This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.
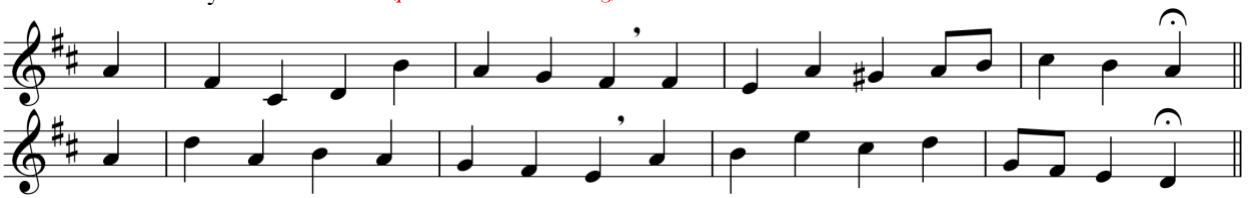
Fools fold their hands and consume their own flesh. Better is a handful with quiet than two handfuls with toil, and a chasing after wind.

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: the case of solitary individuals, without sons or brothers; yet there is no end to all their toil, and their eyes are never satisfied with riches. 'For whom am I toiling', they ask, 'and depriving myself of pleasure?' This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.
Better is a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king, who will no longer take advice. One can indeed come out of prison to reign, even though born poor in the kingdom. I saw all the living who, moving about under the sun, follow that[c] youth who replaced the king; there was no end to all those people whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a chasing after wind.

Here endeth the first lesson.

The Office Hymn 138 REH *(please remain standing)*



Father, in whom thy saints are one,
Bought by the blood of thy dear Son,
We praise thee for thy hallowing grace
In those who now behold thy face.

2 For they have gained eternal rest,
And in the heavenly mansions blest
They dwell among the angelic throng,
And hear the one unending song.

3 The patriarchs and prophets old
The heavenly splendour now behold;
The Baptist, herald of thy Son,
Enjoys the fruit of labour done.

4 But first among the saintly band,
The mother, at her Son's right hand,
Adores the Saviour's endless love,
In that eternal home above.

5 The twelve now see the Father's face,
While all who've run their earthly race
In one glad company rejoice
To hear the heavenly bridegroom's voice.

6 Father of all, to thee we pray,
Keep us for ever in the way
That leads us to the heavenly rest
Among the glories of the blest.

7 To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
All worship, love and honour be,
Both now and in eternity. Amen.

Kent
John Frederick Lampe 1703-51

George Boorne Timms 1910-97
freely based on Latin hymns for All Saints
REH 253

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 in the First Letter of John, in the 2nd chapter, beginning at the eighteenth verse.

Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?[1] This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.
I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.
And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who does right has been born of him.

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.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; 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 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.*
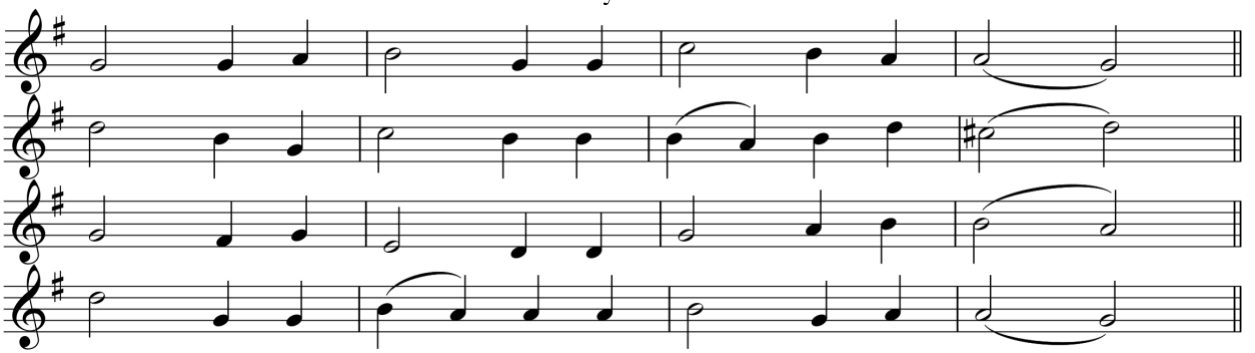
A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

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.*

The Bishop may bless the people or the following will be said:

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



O what their joy and their glory must be,
Those endless sabbaths the blessed ones see!
Crown for the valiant; to weary ones rest;
God shall be all, and in all ever blest.

2 Truly Jerusalem name we that shore,
'Vision of peace,' that brings joy evermore!
Wish and fufillment can severed be ne'er,
Nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.

3 We, where no trouble distraction can bring,
Safely the anthems of Sion shall sing;
While for thy grace, Lord, their voices of praise
Thy blessed people shall evermore raise.

4 Low before him with our praises we fall,
Of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all;
Of whom, the Father; and through whom, the Son;
In whom, the Spirit, with these ever One. Amen.

Regnator orbis
Melody adapted by Thomas Helmore 1811-90
from François de La Feillée d c1780

Latin, Peter Abelard 1079-1143
tr John Mason Neale 1818-66
REH 256

Please remain standing for the recession.