EVENSONG for Septuagesima sung by the Cathedral Choir



The Preces

sung by the Officiant and the Choir to a setting by William Byrd (1543 - 1623)

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.

Hymn

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against thee cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
To enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short
To extol thee.

Psalm 6 sung by the Choir

Please sit as the choir chants the Psalm but stand for the singing of the Gloria.

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine indignation: neither chasten me in thy displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak: O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. My soul also is sore troubled: but, Lord, how long wilt thou punish me? Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul: O save me for thy mercy's sake. For in death no man remembereth thee: and who will give thee thanks in the pit? I am weary of my groaning; every night wash I my bed: and water my couch with my tears. My beauty is gone for very trouble: and worn away because of all mine enemies. Away from me, all ye that work vanity: for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord hath heard my petition: the Lord will receive my prayer. All mine enemies shall be confounded, and sore vexed: they shall be turned back, and put to shame suddenly. 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 First Lesson Wisdom 11: 21 - 12: 2

Here begins the twenty first verse of the eleventh chapter of the Wisdom of Solomon.

It is always in your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the might of your arm? Because the whole world before you is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls on the ground. But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent. For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living. For your immortal spirit is in all things. Therefore you correct little by little those who trespass, and you remind and warn them of the things through which they sin, so that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in you, O Lord.

Here ends the first lesson.

Magnificat

sung by the choir to the setting in G by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 - 1924)

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.

Please sit

The Second Lesson Galatians 4: 8-20

Here begins the eighth verse of the fourth chapter of the letter of St Paul to the Galatians.

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted. Friends, I bea you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

Here ends the second lesson.

Nunc Dimittis sung by the Choir

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.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God. the Father Almighty, ΑII 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 Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Please kneel

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who 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 those who 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 Collect for Septuagesima

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear the prayers of thy people; that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness, for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The 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 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.

The Collect for help in danger

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.

'Hear my prayer' by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847) sung by the choir

Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear! Thyself from my petition do not hide! Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee! Without Thee all is dark, I have no guide.

The enemy shouteth, The godless come fast! Iniquity, hatred upon me they cast! The wicked oppress me, Ah, where shall I fly? Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry!

My heart is sorely pained within my breast, My soul with deathly terror is oppressed, Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall, With horror overhelmed, Lord, hear me call!

O for the wings of a dove! Far away would I rove! In the wilderness build me a nest, And remain there for ever at rest.

Words: Psalm 55: 1-7

The Sermon and Prayers
The Revd Canon Elly Sheard, Canon for Creation Care

Hymn

When all thy mercies, O my God, My rising soul surveys, Transported with the view, I'm lost In wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul Thy tender care bestowed, Before my infant heart conceived From whom those comforts flowed.

When in the slippery paths of youth With heedless steps I ran, Thine arm unseen conveyed me safe, And led me up to man.

Through every period of my life Thy goodness I'll pursue, And after death in distant worlds The glorious theme renew.

Through all eternity to thee A joyful song I'll raise; For O, eternity's too short To utter all thy praise.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Final Responses sung by the choir

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

Please take this order of service away with you.

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