Solemn Evensong for the Feast of St Thomas sung by the Cathedral Choir



Sunday 3rd July 2022 at 4.00pm We are very pleased this afternoon to receive a donation of £30,000 from the Cathedral Music Trust to support bursaries and scholarships for young choristers in 2022 and 2023. Canon James Mustard, the precentor at Exeter Cathedral and a Trustee of the CMT, will be presenting the cheque before the anthem, and will also be preaching for us. We send our huge appreciation to the Trust for their continuing support for our musical tradition.

Please stand for the entry of the Choir and Clergy.

The Preces

sung by the Officiant and the Choir to a setting by Humphrey Clucas (b. 1941)

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

Strong Son of God, immortal love, whom we, that have not seen thy face, by faith, and faith alone, embrace, believing where we cannot prove;

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust; thou madest man, he knows not why; he thinks he was not made to die: and thou hast made him, thou art just.

Thou seemest human and divine, the highest, holiest manhood thou: our wills are ours, we know not how; our wills are ours, to make them thine.

Our little systems have their day; they have their day and cease to be; they are but broken lights of thee, and thou, O Lord, art more than they.

Psalm 139 sung by the Choir

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

O LORD, thou hast searched me out and known me : thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising, thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed : and spiest out all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue : but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

Thou hast fashioned me behind and before : and laid thine hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me : I cannot attain unto it.

Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit : or whither shall I go then from thy presence?

If I climb up into heaven, thou art there : if I go down to hell, thou art there also.

If I take the wings of the morning : and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;

Even there also shall thy hand lead me : and thy right hand shall hold me.

If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me : then shall my night be turned to day.

Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day : the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

For my reins are thine : thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.

My bones are not hid from thee : though I be made secretly, and fashioned beneath in the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect : and in thy book were all my members written;

Which day by day were fashioned : when as yet there was none of them.

How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God : O how great is the sum of them!

If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand : when I wake up I am present with thee.

Wilt thou not slay the wicked, O God : depart from me, ye bloodthirsty men.

For they speak unrighteously against thee : and thine enemies take thy Name in vain.

Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee : and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

Yea, I hate them right sore : even as though they were mine enemies.

Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart : prove me, and examine my thoughts.

Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me : and lead me in the way everlasting.

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 Job 42. 1-6

The first lesson is written in the forty-second chapter of the Book of Job, beginning at the first verse

Then Job answered the Lord:

'I know that you can do all things,

and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?"

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,

things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. "Hear, and I will speak;

I will question you, and you declare to me."

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,

but now my eye sees you;

therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' Here ends the first lesson.

Please stand.

Magnificat

The Collegium Regale setting by Herbert Howells (1892-1983) During which the altar is honoured with incense

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 I Peter 1. 3-12

The second lesson is written in the first chapter of the First Letter of Peter, beginning at the third verse.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

Here ends the second lesson.

Please stand.

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,
All 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 holy Catholic Church; The Forgiveness of sins; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

The Responses

sung by the Officiant and the Choir

The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit.

Please sit or 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 St Thomas

Almighty and everliving God, who for the more confirmation of the faith didst suffer thy holy Apostle Thomas to be doubtful in thy Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly, and without all doubt, to believe in thy Son Jesus Christ, that our faith in thy sight may never be reproved. Hear us, O Lord, through the same Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. 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.

Anthem

Jubilate deo by William Walton (1902-1983) sung by the choir O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands;

serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;

it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise;

be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious; his mercy is everlasting;

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Words: Psalm 100

The Sermon Canon James Mustard, Precentor, Exeter Cathedral

> Prayers lead by the Dean

Please stand.

Hymn

O Jesu, King most wonderful, thou Conqueror renown'd, thou Sweetness most ineffable, In whom all joys are found!

When once thou visitest the heart, then truth begins to shine; then earthly vanities depart; then kindles love divine.

O Jesu, Light of all below, thou Fount of life and fire, surpassing all the joys we know, all that we can desire: May every heart confess thy name, and ever thee adore; and seeking thee, itself inflame to seek thee more and more.

Thee may our tongues for ever bless; thee may we love alone; and ever in our lives express the image of thine own.

The **Blessing**

Christ give you grace to follow his saints in faith, and love, and hope; 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 Paean by Herbert Howells