

Choral Evensong, Sunday the 7th

August 2022



Welcome to this service of Choral Evensong, sung by the choir of Queens College Cambridge. The minister tonight is The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts & Reconciliation. The preacher is The Reverend Kathryn Fleming, Canon for Worship & Community. The Canticles are the *St Paul's Service* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), and the responses are by Richard Ayleward (1626-1669). The service can be followed in the purple service book.

Psalm 108

1. O GOD, my heart is ready, my heart is ready: I will sing and give praise with the best member that I have.
2. Awake, thou lute, and harp: I myself will awake right early.
3. I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.
4. For thy mercy is greater than the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.
5. Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth.
6. That thy beloved may be delivered: let thy right hand save them, and hear thou me.
7. God hath spoken in his holiness: I will rejoice therefore, and divide Sichem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.
8. Gilead is mine, and Manasses is mine: Ephraim also is the strength of my head.
9. Judah is my law-giver, Moab is my wash-pot: over Edom will I cast out my shoe, upon Philistia will I triumph.
10. Who will lead me into the strong city: and who will bring me into Edom?
11. Hast not thou forsaken us, O God: and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?
12. O help us against the enemy: for vain is the help of man.
13. Through God we shall do great acts: and it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

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 First Lesson *Isaiah 11:10-12:6*

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

He will raise a signal for the nations,
and will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
and gather the dispersed of Judah
from the four corners of the earth.

The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart,
the hostility of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah,
and Judah shall not be hostile towards Ephraim.

But they shall swoop down on the backs of the Philistines in the west;
together they shall plunder the people of the east.

They shall put forth their hand against Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites shall obey them.

And the Lord will utterly destroy
the tongue of the sea of Egypt;
and will wave his hand over the River
with his scorching wind;
and will split it into seven channels,
and make a way to cross on foot;
so there shall be a highway from Assyria
for the remnant that is left of his people,
as there was for Israel

when they came up from the land of Egypt.

You will say on that day:

I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Second Lesson *2 Corinthians 1:1-22*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many. Indeed, this is our boast, the testimony of our conscience: we have behaved in the world with frankness and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God—and all the more towards you. For we write to you nothing other than what you can read and also understand; I hope you will understand until the end—as you have already understood us in part—that on the day of the Lord Jesus we are your boast even as you are our boast. Since I was sure of this, I wanted to come to

you first, so that you might have a double favour; I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on to Judea. Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to ordinary human standards, ready to say 'Yes, yes' and 'No, no' at the same time? As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been 'Yes and No.' For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not 'Yes and No'; but in him it is always 'Yes.' For in him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen', to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, by putting his seal on us and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first instalment.

The Collect for the day

O God, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which be profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anthem

O thou the central orb of righteous love,
pure beam of the most high, eternal light
of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright
awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine;
thy saints with holy lustre round thee move,
as stars about thy throne, set in the height
of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight
gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.

Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
our nature all shall feel eternal day,
in fellowship with thee, transforming clay
to souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Words by H.R. Bramley (1833-1917)

Music by Charles Wood (1866-1926)

The Hymn

Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
Oh, may no earthborn cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought how sweet to rest
Forever on my Savior's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

Come near, and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take;
Till in the ocean of Thy love
We lose ourselves in Thee above.

Words John Keble (1792-1866)

Tune CP 21i Abends, H.S. Oakeley (1830-1903)

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in B Marcel Jean-Jules Dupré (1886-1971)

