



**THE SEVENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY**

**CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH
SERMON IN MUSIC**

23RD JULY 2023, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Tune: Hanover
Descant: A Gray 1855-1935
Words: R Grant 1779-1838, Psalm 104

Welcome

Minister Beloved, we are come together
in the presence of Almighty God
and of the whole company of heaven
to offer unto him, through our Lord Jesus Christ,
our worship and praise and thanksgiving;
to make confession of our sins,
to pray as well for others as for ourselves,
that we may know more truly
the greatness of God's love
and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace;
and to ask on behalf of all men
such things as their well being doth require.
Wherefore let us kneel now
and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Confession

All **Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways
like lost sheep,
we have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things
which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things
which we ought not to have done,
and there is no health in us:
but thou, O Lord,
have mercy upon us miserable offenders;
spare thou them, O God,
which confess their faults,
restore thou them that are penitent,
according to thy promises
declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesu our Lord:**

**and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly,
righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy name.
Amen.**

The Minister delivers the Absolution

May the Almighty and merciful Lord
grant unto you pardon
and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Preces

Kenneth Leighton

Minister O Lord, open thou our lips,
Choir *and our mouth shall shew 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.*

Psalm 67

Choir *1 God be merciful unto us, and bless us :
 and shew us the light of his countenance,
 and be merciful unto us:*

*2 That thy way may be known upon earth :
thy saving health among all nations.*

*3 Let the people praise thee, O God :
yea, let all the people praise thee.*

*4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad :
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.*

*5 Let the people praise thee, O God :
let all the people praise thee.*

*6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase :
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.*

*7 God shall bless us :
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.*

*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.*

Chant: Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-76

Old Testament Lesson

1 Kings 2: 10-12; 3: 16-end

read by James Beddoe

So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem. Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.

Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the King, and stood before him. And the one woman said, "O my Lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while I thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.” And the other woman said, “Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son.” And this said, “No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son.” Thus they spake before the King.

Then said the King, “The one saith, ‘This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead’: and the other saith, ‘Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.’” And the King said, “Bring me a sword.” And they brought a sword before the King. And the King said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.”

Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the King, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, “O my Lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it.” But the other said, “Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.”

Then the King answered and said, “Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.” And all Israel heard of the judgment which the King had judged; and they feared the King: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

Evening Service in C – Charles Villiers Stanford

Choir *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 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.*

New Testament Lesson

Acts 4: 1-22

read by Bee Abel

And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, “Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, if we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.”

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

All This is the word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in C – Charles Villiers Stanford

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.*

Apostles' Creed

**All 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.**

Responses

Kenneth Leighton

Minister The Lord be with you,
Choir *and with thy spirit.*

Minister Let us pray.

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

Choir	<i>Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in 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.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, save the King, and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>Endue thy Ministers with righteousness, and make thy chosen people joyful.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>Give peace in our time, O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.</i>
Minister Choir	<i>O God, make clean our hearts within us, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.</i>

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister *Lord of all power and might,
who art the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of thy name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of thy great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

Choir *Amen.*

The second, for Peace

Minister 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.

Choir *Amen.*

The third, for Aid against all Perils

Minister 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.

Choir *Amen.*

Sermon in Music

Hear my prayer – Felix Mendelssohn
(Please see notes on page 15)

Prayers of Intercession

led by The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

This response may be used

All Lord, in thy mercy,
hear our prayer.

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of thy Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Notices

Hymn

**Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;
'tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
'Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?**

**'I delivered thee when bound,
and, when wounded, healed thy wound;
sought thee wandering, set thee right,
turned thy darkness into light.**

**'Can a woman's tender care
cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
yet will I remember thee.**

**'Mine is an unchanging love,
higher than the heights above,
deeper than the depths beneath,
free and faithful, strong as death.**

**‘Thou shalt see my glory soon,
when the work of grace is done;
partner of my throne shalt be:
say, poor sinner, lov’st thou me?’**

**Lord, it is my chief complaint
that my love is weak and faint;
yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!**

Tune: St Bees by JB Dykes 1823-76
Words: W Cowper 1731-1800

Blessing

Minister The peace of God, which passeth 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 amongst you and remain with you always.

Choir *Amen.*

Organ Voluntary

Prelude in D minor Op 37 – Felix Mendelssohn

Sermon in Music

Hear my prayer – Felix Mendelssohn

Felix Mendelssohn, who lived from 1809 to 1847, is famous principally as a composer of popular symphonies, concertos and orchestral music, much of which he wrote as a very young man. However, he had a life-long love of choral music and was responsible for a revival of interest in the music of Bach, giving the first performance of the *St Matthew Passion* in Germany for almost 100 years in 1829. This led him to attempt choral composition himself towards the end of his life, culminating in the two great Biblical oratorios, *St Paul* and *Elijah* (written for performance in England, where he was a frequent visitor).

He also wrote a number of psalm settings of which *Hear my prayer*, a setting of verses from Psalm 55, is the most well-known. It was made famous by a recording of the Temple Church in the 1920s, but it was originally intended for a soprano soloist and an adult choir.

Hear my prayer

*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 bewilder'd, O God, hear my cry!
My heart is sorely pain'd within my breast,
my soul with deathly terror is oppress'd.
Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,
with horror overwhelmed, 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.*

Text: Psalm 55