



THE THIRD
SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY

CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH
SERMON IN MUSIC

25TH JUNE 2023, 5:30^{PM}

**ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH**

Hymn

**Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shown in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.**

**Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thyself to know.**

**Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.**

**Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.**

Tune: Regent Square by Henry Smart 1813-79
Words: H S Holland 1847-1918

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

Herbert Sumsion

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 48

Choir

*1 Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised :
in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.*

*2 The hill of Sion is a fair place,
and the joy of the whole earth :
upon the north-side lieth the city of the great King;
God is well known in her palaces as a sure refuge.*

*3 For lo, the kings of the earth :
are gathered, and gone by together.*

*4 They marvelled to see such things :
they were astonished, and suddenly cast down.*

*5 Fear came there upon them, and sorrow :
as upon a woman in her travail.*

*6 Thou shalt break the ships of the sea :
through the east-wind.*

*7 Like as we have heard,
so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts,
in the city of our God :
God upholdeth the same for ever.*

*8 We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God :
in the midst of thy temple.*

*9 O God, according to thy Name,
so is thy praise unto the world's end :
thy right hand is full of righteousness.*

*10 Let the mount Sion rejoice,
and the daughters of Judah be glad :
because of thy judgements.*

*11 Walk about Sion, and go round about her :
and tell the towers thereof.*

*12 Mark well her bulwarks, set up her houses :
that ye may tell them that come after.*

*13 For this God is our God for ever and ever :
he shall be our guide unto death.*

*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: John Goss 1800-80

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 24: 1-17

read by Philip Tebb

And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.

Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way.

David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed.

Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. The Lord judge between me and thee, and the Lord avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. After whom is the king of Israel come out? After whom dost thou pursue? After a dead dog, after a flea. The Lord therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God

Magnificat

Evening Service in B minor – Thomas Tertius Noble

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

Luke 14: 12-24

read by Angelynne Hinson

Then said Jesus unto him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in B minor – Thomas Tertius Noble

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

Herbert Sumsion

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 *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.

Minister O Lord, shew 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.*

Collects

The first, for the day

Minister *Almighty God,
who hast broken the tyranny of sin
and hast sent the Spirit of thy Son into our hearts,
whereby we call thee Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to thy service,
that the whole world may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
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

Ascribe unto the Lord – Samuel Sebastian Wesley

(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.

Hymn

**Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
we stand to bless thee ere our worship cease;
then, lowly kneeling, wait thy word of peace.**

**Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end, the day;
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.**

**Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light;
from harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.**

**Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**

Tune: Ellers by E Hopkins 1818-1901
Words: J Ellerton 1826-93

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

Postlude in D minor – Charles Villiers Stanford

Played by Benjamin Giddens

Sermon in Music

Ascribe unto the Lord – Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) was the grandson of Charles Wesley the hymn-writer and the great nephew of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. He was the most distinguished cathedral musician of the mid-19th century, holding appointments successively at Hereford, Exeter, Leeds Parish Church, Winchester and Gloucester, and was responsible almost single-handedly for maintaining standards of church music at a time when most choral foundations were in danger of collapse – indeed, the revival of good cathedral music, which began with the Tractarians in the mid-19th century and has continued to the present day, would scarcely have been possible without Wesley's work. His compositional skills were an important element of his success, and works such as *Blessed be the God and Father* (written for Easter Day at Hereford when only trebles and a single bass voice were available), *Wash me thoroughly, Thou wilt keep him, The Wilderness* and *Ascribe unto the Lord* are still in the repertoire of most good choirs.

Ascribe unto the Lord was written during Wesley's years at Winchester and is an extended setting of verses from two psalms, 96 and 115. It opens with a strong tune for men's voices, answered by full choir, and continues with gentler quartet section for two sopranos and two altos at the words "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness". A solemn fugal section leads into a passage, with characteristic octave leaps for "They have ears and hear not" which is followed by a male-voice quartet and a solemn passage for full choir. The final section "The Lord hath been mindful of us", which is sometimes performed separately, is based on two melodies reminiscent of Wesley's great contemporary, Felix Mendelssohn. One is sung by the basses at the beginning and the other, to the words "Ye are the blessed of the Lord, you and your children", is first heard in the alto part, and is then sung by the full choir to conclude the piece.

Ascribe unto the Lord

*Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people :
ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name.
Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King :
and that he shall judge the people righteously.
Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Sing to the Lord, and praise his Name :
be telling of his salvation from day to day, and his wonders unto all people.*

*As for the gods of the heathen, they are but idols.
Their idols are silver and gold : even the work of men's hands.
They have mouths, and speak not : eyes have they, and see not.
They have ears, and hear not : noses have they, and smell not.
They have hands, and handle not; feet have they, and walk not :
neither speak they through their throat.
They that make them are like unto them :
and so are all such as put their trust in them.*

As for our God, he is in heaven : he hath done whatsoever pleased him.

*The Lord hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us :
he shall bless the house of Israel, he shall bless the house of Aaron.
He shall bless them that fear the Lord : both small and great.
Ye are the blessed of the Lord : you and your children.
Ye are the blessed of the Lord : who made heaven and earth.*

Text: Psalms 96 and 115