THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH SERMON IN MUSIC

28TH APRIL 2024, 5:30PM

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH

Hymn

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God;
from death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our God hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection-light;
and, listening to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain
his own 'All hail', and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Tune: Ellacombe from Mainz Gesangbuch 1833
Words: St John of Damascus d 754
Translation: J M Neale 1818-66

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 (1929-1988)

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 96

1 O sing unto the Lord a new song :
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name :
be telling of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his honour unto the heathen :
and his wonders unto all people.

4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised :
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5 As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols :
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

6 Glory and worship are before him :
power and honour are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people :
ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.

8 Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name :
bring presents, and come into his courts.

9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness :
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

10 Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King :
and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast
that it cannot be moved; and how that he shall judge the
people righteously.

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad :
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it :
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth :
and with righteousness to judge the world,
and the people with his truth.

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: Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Old Testament Lesson
Isaiah 60: 1-14
read by Bee Abel

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to

the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee; The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat

Evening Service in G – Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

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
Revelation 3: 1-13
read by Matthew Morley

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father,

and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is

true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in G – Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

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 (1929-1988)

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.

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 through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
hast overcome death and opened unto us
the gate of everlasting life:
we humbly beseech thee that, as by thy grace preceding us
thou dost put into our minds good desires,
so by thy continual help
we may bring the same to good effect;
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
Lo, the full, final sacrifice – Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)
(please see notes on page 14)

Prayers of Intercession
The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

This response may be used

Lord, in thy mercy,
All **hear our prayer.**

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

Hymn

Glory to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light;
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thy own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed;
teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the aweful day.

O may my soul on thee repose,
and with sweet sleep my eyelids close,
sleep that may me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above, angelic host,
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Tune: Tallis' Canon by T Tallis c1505–85

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

Fanfare – Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London. CCLI Licence no 2277036
CCLI Streaming Licence no 954810

Sermon in Music

Lo, the full, final sacrifice – Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Gerald Finzi studied composition in York and London and was regarded as one of Britain's leading composers at the time of his tragically early death in 1956. He is probably most famous for his song cycles but he wrote a number of substantial works with sacred texts of which the cantata *Dies natalis* for tenor solo and orchestra to poems by Traherne is best known. Like his contemporary Vaughan Williams he was not a conventional believer and therefore rarely used biblical texts but his contribution to the sacred repertoire is still worthwhile.

Lo, the full, final sacrifice is one of a series of significant works, including Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, commissioned for St Matthew's, Northampton, by its Rector Walter Hussey (later Dean of Chichester). Finzi composed it for the anniversary of the consecration of the church in 1946 and the text is a paraphrase of the Hymns of St Thomas Aquinas *Adoro Te* and *Lauda Sion Salvatorem*.

Lo, the full, final sacrifice
on which all figures fix't their eyes.
The ransomed Isaac, and his ram;
the Manna, and the Paschal Lamb.

Jesu Master, just and true!
Our Food, and faithful Shepherd too!

O let that love which thus makes thee
mix with our low Mortality,
lift our lean Souls, and set us up
convictors of thine own full cup,
coheirs of Saints. That so all may
drink the same wine; and the same way.
Nor change the Pasture, but the Place
to feed of Thee in thine own Face.

O dear Memorial of that Death
which lives still, and allows us breath!
Rich, Royal food! Bountiful Bread!
Whose use denies us to the dead!

Live ever Bread of Loves, and be
my life, my soul, my surer self to me.

Help Lord, my Faith, my Hope increase;
and fill my portion in thy peace.
Give love for life; nor let my days
grow, but in new powers to thy name and praise.

Rise, Royal Sion! rise and sing
thy soul's kind shepherd, thy heart's King
stretch all thy powers; call if you can
harps of heaven to hands of man.
This sovereign subject sits above
the best ambition of thy love.

Lo the Bread of Life, this day's
triumphant Text provokes thy praise.
The living and life-giving bread,
to the great twelve distributed
when Life, himself, at point to die
of love, was his own Legacy.

O soft self-wounding Pelican!
Whose breast weeps Balm for wounded man.
All this way bend thy benign flood
To'a bleeding Heart that gasps for blood.
That blood, whose last drops sovereign be
to wash my worlds of sins from me.
Come love! Come Lord! And that long day
for which I languish, come away.
When this dry soul those eyes shall see,
and drink the unseal'd source of thee.
When Glory's sun faith's shades shall chase,
and for thy veil give me thy face. Amen.