

# CHORAL EVENSONG

3 December 2025 7:00pm



St George's Cathedral, Kingston

Versicles & Responses: Byrd

Setting: *The Short Service*, Gibbons

*Please stand, as you are able, as the Choir and Clergy enter the Cathedral.*

*Minister.* O LORD, open thou our lips;

*Choir.* And our mouth shall show 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.

*Please sit.*

## **Psalm 18** *Diligam te, Domine.*

FOR who is God but the LORD? / or who hath any strength except our God?

34 It is God that girdeth me with strength, / and maketh my way perfect.

35 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, / and setteth me up on high.

36 He teacheth my hands to fight, / so that mine arms can bend even a bow of steel.

37 Thou hast given me the defence of thy salvation; / thy right hand also hath held me up, and thy loving correction  
hath made me great.

38 Thou hast made room enough under me for to go, / that my footsteps did not slide.

39 I followed upon mine enemies and overtook them; / neither did I turn again till I had destroyed them.

40 I smote them, that they were not able to stand, / but fell under my feet.

41 Thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle; / thou hast thrown down mine enemies under me.

42 Thou didst make mine enemies also to turn their backs upon me, / and I destroyed them that hated me.

43 They cried, but there was none to help them; / yea, even unto the LORD did they cry, but he did not hear them.

44 I beat them as small as the dust before the wind: / I cast them out as the clay in the streets.

45 Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people, and hast made me the head of the nations; / a people  
whom I had not known did serve me.

46 As soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me; / and strangers humbled themselves before me.

47 The strangers lost heart, / and came trembling out of their strongholds.

48 THE LORD liveth, and blessed be my strong helper, / and praised be the God of my salvation;

49 Even the God that seeth that I be avenged, / and subdueth the peoples under me.

50 It is thou that deliverest me from my cruel enemies, and settest me up above mine adversaries; / thou dost rid me  
from the wicked man.

51 For this cause will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the nations, / and sing praises unto thy Name.

52 Great deliverance giveth he unto his king, / and showeth loving-kindness unto his anointed, unto David and unto his  
seed for evermore.

The First Lesson is written in the book of Isaiah, in the 10th chapter, starting at the fifth verse.

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger— the club in their hands is my fury!

Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But this is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few.

For he says: ‘Are not my commanders all kings? Is not Calno like Carchemish?

Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus? As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols whose images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols what I have done to Samaria and her images?’

When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the arrogant boasting of the king of Assyria and his haughty pride. For he says:

‘By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found, like a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or opened its mouth, or chirped.’ Shall the axe vaunt itself over the one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles it? As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift the one who is not wood! Therefore the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day. The glory of his forest and his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as when an invalid wastes away. The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

On that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on the one who struck them, but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though your people Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in all the earth.

Here endeth the first lesson.

## The Office Hymn *(please stand)*



Creator of the stars of night,  
thy people's everlasting light,  
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,  
Regard thy servants when they call.

2 Thou, grieving at the bitter cry  
Of all creation doomed to die,  
Didst come to save a ruined race  
With healing gifts of heavenly grace.

3 Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to evening tide,  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,  
The son of Man, yet Lord divine.

4 At thy great name, exalted now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
And things in heaven and earth shall own  
That thou art Lord and King alone.

5 To thee, O Holy One, we pray,  
Our judge in that tremendous day,  
Preserve us, while we dwell below,  
From every onslaught of the foe.

6 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose Advent sets thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

*Conditor Alme*  
Mode iv

Latin, John Mason Neale 1818-66  
and the Editors of *The New English Hymnal*, 1986

## Magnificat. St Luke 1. 46

**M**Y soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. 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.*

*Please sit*

The Second Lesson is written in the Gospel according to Revelations, in the 8th chapter, beginning at the first verse.

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Another angel with a golden censer came and stood at the altar; he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that is before the throne. And the smoke of the

incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets made ready to blow them.

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many died from the water, because it was made bitter.

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light was darkened; a third of the day was kept from shining, and likewise the night.

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew in mid-heaven, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!’

Here endeth the second lesson.

*Please stand*

### Nunc Dimittis. St Luke 2.29.

**L**ORD, 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.*

*Please remain standing*

**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.*

*Minister:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

*Please kneel as you are able*

*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, on 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, show 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.

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the Armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. *Amen.*

*The Second Collect, for Peace.*

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 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 Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils.*

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.*

*Please sit.*

## The Anthem

This is the record of John,  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem  
to ask him,  
Who art thou?  
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,  
I am not the Christ.  
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou  
Elias?  
And he said, I am not.  
Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

Art thou the prophet?  
And he answered, No.  
Then said they unto him,  
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them  
that sent us.  
What sayest thou of thyself?  
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the  
wilderness,  
Make straight the way of the Lord.

John 1: 19-23

## The Prayers

*Please kneel as you are able*

**A**Lmighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, grant us to be strengthened by thy Holy Spirit, that, Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith, our lives may be rooted and grounded in thy covenant love; and that we may be empowered by thy Spirit to speak thy truth, and to walk in thy way of justice and wholeness for all. Mercifully grant that thy people of this our land, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to serve one another as we grow together into the full stature of Christ, our light and our life. *Amen.*

**A**Lmighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**E**verliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

**A**Lmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14.*

**T**HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

## Hymn *(please stand)*



This is the truth sent from above,  
the truth of God, the God of love;  
therefore don't turn me from the door  
but hearken all, both rich and poor.

2 The first thing that I will relate,  
that God at first did man create;  
the next thing which to you I tell -  
woman was made with him to dwell.

3 Then after that 'twas God's own choice  
to place them both in paradise,  
there to remain from evil free  
except they ate of such a tree.

4 But they did eat, which was a sin,  
and thus their ruin did begin -  
ruined themselves, both you and me,  
and all of our posterity.

5 Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
till God the Lord did interpose;  
and so a promise soon did run:  
that he'd redeem us by his Son.

6 And at this season of the year  
our blest Redeemer did appear,  
and here did live, and here did preach,  
and many thousands he did teach.

7 Thus he in love to us behaved,  
to show us how we must be saved;  
and if you want to know the way,  
be pleased to hear what he did say:

8 'Go preach the gospel,' now he said,  
'to all the nations that are made!  
And those that do believe on me,  
from all their sins I'll set them free.'

*The Truth from Above*

Herfordshire traditional melody

arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

English Traditional

*A Good Christmas Box, 1847*

*Please remain standing for the recession.*

The Very Rev'd Douglas Michael, Dean  
Brad Barbeau, Director of Music  
The Cathedral Choir

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

*Learn more at [www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/christmas](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/christmas)*

**G.F. Handel's *Messiah*** | Wednesday, December 17 • 6pm  
**Christmas Lessons & Carols** | Sunday, December 21 • 4:30pm  
**Christmas Eve** | 4:00pm • 7:00pm • 9:30pm  
**Christmas Day** | 10:00am