

ST EDMUND HALL

Choral Evensong

Second Sunday of Lent



‘Wonder and Fulfilment’

Speaker: The Chaplain

28 February 2021

5.30 pm

Evensong in our time: Epiphany and Lent during lockdown

Evensong is one of the Church of England's ancient services. It provides an open and generous space for quiet and reflection, for song and speech and prayer, as it draws from biblical readings, canticles, and the Church's long tradition of hymns.

Our Evensong series this term, 'Wonder and...', takes its cue from the seasons in the Church year. We begin in the season of Epiphany, a time for reflecting on the wonders of God: great events in the life of Christ, the marvels of nature, the miracle of divine activity among the saints of the past and among us today. We will also enter the season of Lent before long, when Christians have typically reflected on 'going back to basics': thinking afresh about faith, hope, love, and other fundamentals; returning to disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity.

This all takes place in the context of lockdown and illness, with its isolation, frustrations, sadness, difficulties, and many strange qualities. The Psalmist in exile said, 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?' Perhaps we feel the same. How can we still wonder, still believe, amid these crushing realities? Perhaps Epiphany and Lent have something to teach us. We shall find out together.

*We are nearly all on Zoom. We invite everyone to join in, as they are able, by listening attentively to the choir, readers, and ministers, and by saying together (on mute) those prayers that are marked in **bold**: the Lord's Prayer, the Grace, and the Amens. We would encourage you to sing along, too (on mute).*

Zoom link at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112377996?pwd=bm9zMWZreEl4M1RiK2toOXNvNW9aZz09>

Cover image: Walters Art Museum, MS W.535, fol. 107r (ca. 1594): Text and illumination, the Feeding of the 5000 (Mark 6:34-44). Text by Luke the Cypriot (1583-1625), completed in Buzau; illustrations completed by Russian artists in Moscow. Public domain.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SENTENCE (Ps. 107:9):

‘God satisfieth the empty soul : and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.’

The chaplain offers words of welcome, followed by the **PRECES & RESPONSES:**

Choir: O Lord, open thou our lips,
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Choir: O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir: 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.

Choir: Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord’s name be praised.

Music: Plainsong

The choir sings **PSALM 36:5-9 (DIXIT INJUSTUS...DOMINE IN CAELO):**

5 Thy mercy, O Lord, reacheth unto the heavens :
and thy faithfulness unto the clouds.

6 Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains :
thy judgements are like the great deep.

- 7 Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast;
How excellent is thy mercy, O God :
and the children of men shall put their trust
under the shadow of thy wings.
- 8 They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy house :
and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as out of the river.
- 9 For with thee is the well of life :
and in thy light shall we see light

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.

Music: Thomas Attwood (1765-1838), adapted

The **FIRST LESSON** (EXODUS 16:1-12):

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my

instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, ‘In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?’ And Moses said, ‘When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.’

Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.”’ And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, “At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.”’

*The choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT** (LUKE 1:46-55):*

+ My 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 shewed 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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), setting in G, arr. by
James Whitbourn (1963-) for organ and violin

The **SECOND LESSON** (JOHN 6:1-15):

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.'

Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

The **NUNC DIMITTIS** (LUKE 2:29-32):

+ 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.

Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), setting in G, arr. by
James Whitbourn (1963-) for organ and violin

The 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.**

The LESSER LITANY:

 The Lord be with you.
Choir: And with thy spirit.

 Let us pray.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.
Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
All: **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.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save thy people.
Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

ALMIGHTY God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

COLLECT OF LENT:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir: Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE:

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.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST 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.

Choir: Amen.

Music: Plainsong

The ADDRESS

“Wonder and Fulfilment”
The Chaplain

The INTERCESSIONS may include this response:

All: Lord, in thy mercy
hear our prayer.

Prayers conclude with the GRACE:

All: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*The Chaplain gives NOTICES and the choir then sings the Hymn LIGHT'S
ABODE, CELESTIAL SALEM (NEH 401):*

Light's abode, celestial Salem,
Vision whence true peace doth spring,
Brighter than the heart can fancy,
Mansion of the highest King;
O, how glorious are the praises
Which of thee the prophets sing!

There for ever and for ever
Alleluya is outpoured;
For unending, for unbroken
Is the feast-day of the Lord;
All is pure and all is holy
That within thy walls is stored.

There no cloud nor passing vapour
Dims the brightness of the air;
Endless noon-day, glorious noon-day,
From the Sun of suns is there;
There no night brings rest from labour,
For unknown are toil and care.

Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in love, and One in splendour,
while unending ages run. Amen.

Words: Latin, 15th-century, trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866)
Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Smart (1813-1879)

The **BLESSING**

The **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

The **COLLECTIONS** this term will go to the charity Shelter, providing relief to those hit hardest by the Covid-19 outbreak. We invite all who can to give generously.

Chapel Activities Online

Evening Prayer, Monday-Thursday (6pm)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87112377996?pwd=bn9zMWZreEl4M1RiK2toOXNvNW9aZz09>

Credo, Wednesdays (4:30pm)

A short enquirers' course for those preparing for baptism or confirmation, and those interested in learning more about Christian faith. Please contact the Chaplain if you're interested in joining.

Night Prayer at Nine, led by Oxford chaplaincies and the University Church

Every night at 9pm except Saturday. Broadcast from the University Church's [Facebook page](#).