

ST EDMUND HALL

Choral Evensong

Third Sunday of Lent



‘Wonder and Gratitude’

Speaker: The Chaplain

7 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: 7th-century mosaic of Melchizedek, Abel, Abraham, and Isaac, Sant'Apollinare in Classe. [Photo](#): Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SENTENCE (Ps. 50:14):

‘Offer unto God thanksgiving: and pay thy vows unto the most Highest.’

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 116:7-14 (DILEXI, QUONIAM...CONVERTERE):**

7 Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul :
for the Lord hath rewarded thee.

8 And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death :
mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

- 9 I will walk before the Lord :
in the land of the living.
- 10 I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled :
I said in my haste, All men are liars.
- 11 What reward shall I give unto the Lord :
for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?
- 12 I will receive the cup of salvation :
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
- 13 I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people :
right dear in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
- 14 Behold, O Lord, how that I am thy servant :
I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid;
thou hast broken my bonds in sunder.

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: J. Soaper (1743-1794), adapted

The **FIRST LESSON** (DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11):

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your

God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

*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: Tone VII, with versets by Johann Pachelbell (1653-1706)

The **SECOND LESSON** (LUKE 17:11-19):

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

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: Philip Moore (1943-), tone VII with faburdens

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:**

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

Let us pray.

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

All: 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.**

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

Choir: O Lord, save the Queen.
 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:

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, look upon the hearty desires
of thy humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of thy
Majesty, to be our defence against all our enemies; 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 Gratitude’

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* NOW THANKS
WE ALL OUR GOD (NEH 4:13):

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in his grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The One eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Amen.

Words: M. Rinkar (1586-1649), trans. C. Winkworth (1827-1878))

Melody: *Nun Danket*, J. Crüger, *Praxis Pietatis Melica* (ca. 1647)

Harmony: adapted from F. Mendelssohn, *Lobgesang* (1840)

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=bm9zMWZreEl4M1RiK2toOXNvNW9aZz09>

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](#).