



YORK MINSTER

The Cathedral & Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

CHORAL EVENSONG on the Sunday next before Advent

including J S Bach's Cantata BWV 140
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Sunday 24th November 2024
at 4.00 pm

Welcome

A warm welcome to York Minster for this service of Choral Evensong which includes, as the anthem, J S Bach's Cantata *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*.

Wachet auf is one of Bach's best-known church cantatas, composed originally for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Trinity, probably in 1731. It is based around Philipp Nicolai's hymn, familiar in its English translation as *Sleepers wake*, with three movements constructed around the chorale melody. The remaining movements set, in recitative and aria (duet), texts by Nicolai which draw heavily on Biblical 'bridegroom' imagery, which in places paraphrase verses from the SONG OF SONGS. The Cantata's main Biblical focus, though, is the parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (MATTHEW 25.1-13) in which the reader is warned of the need to be watchful for the Second Coming of the Lord. Hence the work provides an admirable preparation for the approaching season of Advent, and there is a long-standing custom that *Wachet auf* is sung in York Minster on the afternoon of the Sunday Next before Advent.



Information about this Service

- ◆ This service is being live-streamed, but care is taken to focus on the clergy and choir and not the congregation. For licensing and safeguarding reasons, please do not record this service on your own devices.
- ◆ Please follow the directions of the stewards. Where "Sit" or "Stand" are indicated, these are given simply as a guide. Throughout the Service please feel free to adopt the posture that is most comfortable for you.
- ◆ Please join in saying together the words printed in **bold** type and in singing the hymn.
- ◆ The Minster donates 10% of the cash and direct debits given by worshippers at this service to charity. We are currently supporting three charities: HOPE Africa, a charity which was initiated by our companion link dioceses in SA; Mustard Seed, a York Diocese based organisation which works in the most deprived areas of our diocese; and a variety of Refugee charities based in the City of York. The rest of the money given at this service is used to support the mission and ministry of York Minster. Thank you for your generosity.
- ◆ Donations can be made via the following QR code:



Order of Service

A bell is rung and prayers are sung.

Introit

O nata lux de lumine Jesu Redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis,
nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of light, Jesu Redeemer of the world:
deign in mercy to hear the prayers and praises of those who kneel before you.
You who once deigned to take flesh for the sake of those who were lost:
make us members of your blessed body.*

Words Tenth-century Latin ♦ *Music* Thomas Tallis (c 1505–1585)

Stand when the choir enters the Quire.

Preces

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

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.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

Sit for the singing of the psalm but stand for the Gloria.

Psalmody

The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel ♦
the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

He hath made the round world so sure ♦
that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began hath thy seat been prepared ♦
thou art from everlasting.

The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have lift up their voice ♦
the floods lift up their waves.

The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly ♦
but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O Lord, are very sure ♦
holiness becometh thine house for ever.

Stand.

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.

PSALM 93

Sit.

First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the Book of Daniel.

King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. Then the king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together.

Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, 'So you are Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard of you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that enlightenment, understanding, and excellent wisdom are found in you.

Daniel answered, 'O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty. And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. He killed those he wanted to kill, kept alive those he wanted to keep alive, honoured those he wanted to honour, and degraded those he wanted to degrade. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he acted proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and his glory was stripped from him. He was driven from human society, and his mind was made like that of an animal. His dwelling was with the wild asses, he was fed grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and sets over it whomsoever he will. And you, Belshazzar his son, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this! You have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven! The vessels of his temple have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know; but the God in whose power is your very breath, and to whom belong all your ways, you have not honoured.

'So from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: mene, mene, tekel, and parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; tekel, you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting; peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.'

That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed.

Here ends the First Lesson.

DANIEL 5.1-6, 14-15, 18-28, 30

Stand.

Magnificat

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 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.

Words LUKE I. 46–55

Music THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd (c 1540–1623)

Sit.

Second Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the Revelation to John.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Here ends the Second Lesson.

REVELATION 1.4b-8

Stand.

Nunc Dimittis

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.

Words LUKE 2. 29-32

Music THE SECOND SERVICE, William Byrd (c 1540-1623)

Remain standing and turn to face east.

The Apostles' Creed

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 and Responses

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit.

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.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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. Amen.

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.

Music William Byrd

Sit.

Anthem

Cantata: Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (J S Bach)

Chorus

Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,
wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!

Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde;
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:
Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?
Wohlauf, der Bräutigam kommt;
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt!

Alleluja!

Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,
ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!

*Wake up, cries the watchmen's voice
high up on the battlements,
wake up, city of Jerusalem!*

*This is the midnight hour;
they call to us with ringing voices:
Where are you, wise virgins?
Make haste, the bridegroom comes;
rise up, and take your lamps!*

Alleluia!

*Prepare yourselves for the wedding,
you must set out to meet him.*

Recitative (Tenor)

Er kommt, der Bräut'gam kommt!
Ihr Töchter Zions, kommt heraus,
sein Ausgang eilet aus der Höhe
in euer Mutter Haus.
Der Bräut'gam kommt, der einem Rehe
und jungen Hirschen gleich
auf denen Hügeln springt
und euch das Mahl der Hochzeit bringt.
Wacht auf, ermuntert euch!
den Bräut'gam zu empfangen!
Dort, sehet, kommt er hergegangen.

*He comes, the bridegroom comes!
Go forth, O daughters of Zion,
the daystar hastens from on high
into your mother's house.
The bridegroom comes, like a roe
or a young hart
skipping upon the hills
and bringing you the wedding feast.
Awaken, be of good cheer,
to welcome the bridegroom here!
There, see, behold him coming!*

Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)

SEELE: Wann kommst du, mein Heil?
JESUS: Ich komme, dein Teil.
SEELE: Ich warte mit brennendem Öle.
JESUS: Ich öffne den Saal,
SEELE: eröffne den Saal—
BEIDE: zum himmlischen Mahl!
SEELE: Komm, Jesu!
JESUS: Ich komme, liebe Seele.

SOUL: *When wilt thou come, my salvation?*
JESUS: *I am coming, [to be] a part of you.*
SOUL: *I wait, my lamp lit with burning oil.*
JESUS: *I open the hall,*
SOUL: *open the hall—*
BOTH: *for the heavenly feast!*
SOUL: *Come, Jesus!*
JESUS: *I come, beloved soul!*

Chorale

Zion hört die Wächter singen,
das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,
von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Nun komm, du werthe Kron',
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn.
Hosianna!
Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal
und halten mit das Abendmahl.

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,
her heart leaps for joy,
she wakens and rises with haste.
Her friend descends from heaven in splendour,
strong in mercy, mighty in truth,
her light grows bright, her star ascends.
Come, now, thou worthy crown,
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!
Hosanna!
We shall all follow to the hall of rejoicing
and join the Lord's Supper.*

Recitative (Bass)

So geh herein zu mir,
du mir erwählte Braut!
Ich habe mich mit dir
von Ewigkeit vertraut.
Dich will ich auf mein Herz,
auf meinen Arm gleich wie ein Siegel setzen
und dein betrübtes Aug' ergötzen.
Vergiß, o Seele, nun
die Angst, den Schmerz,
den du erdulden müssen;
auf meiner Linken sollst du ruhn,
und meine Rechte soll dich küssen.

*So, enter in to me,
You, my chosen bride!
I have wedded myself to you
for all eternity.
I would set you on my heart
and on my arm as a seal
and gladden once more your troubled eye.
Forget now, O soul
the fear and grief
you have had to bear;
on my left hand shall you rest,
and my right hand shall embrace you.*

Aria (Duet: Soprano and Bass)

SEELE: Mein Freund ist mein!
JESUS: Und ich bin dein!
BEIDE: Die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.
SEELE: Ich will mit dir,
JESUS: Du sollst mit mir,
BOTH: in Himmels Rosen weiden,
da Freude die Fülle,
da Wonne wird sein.

SOUL: *My friend is mine,*
JESUS: *and I am his!*
BOTH: *Nothing shall divide this love.*
SOUL: *You shall partake with me*
JESUS: *I shall partake with thee*
BOTH: *of heaven's rosy pastures,
where there will be joy in abundance,
and bliss.*

Chorale

Gloria sei dir gesungen
mit Menschen und mit englischen Zungen,
mit Harfen und mit Zymbeln schon.
Von zwölf Perlen sind die Pforten
an deiner Stadt; wir sind mit Konsorten
der Engel hoch um deinen Thron.
Kein Aug' hat je gespürt,
kein Ohr hat je gehört solche Freude.
Des sind wir froh, i-o, i-o!
Ewig in dulci jubilo.

*Glory now be sung to thee
with tongues of angels and mankind,
with harps and with cymbals.
The portals are made of twelve pearls,
in thy city we are consorts
of the angels high about thy throne.
No eye has ever seen,
no ear has ever heard such joy.
Therefore we are glad, io, io!
Eternally in dulci jubilo.*

Kneel or sit.

Reflection

Stand.

Hymn



1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
 once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
 swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Alleluya!
 God appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
 robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
 shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
 still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
 to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
 gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
 high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
 claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
 Alleluya! Come, Lord, come!

Words NEH 9, Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
Tune HELMSLEY, NEH 9, melody attributed to Thomas Olivers (1725–1799) in
Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed (second edition, 1765)
edited by John Wesley (1703–1791)

Remain standing.

The Blessing

Remain as quiet as possible as the choir processes out and sings the final prayer; this is followed by the orchestral voluntary which concludes the service.

Orchestral Voluntary

Orchestral Suite No 1, BWV 1066 (selected movements) J S Bach (1685–1750)

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to support the music, ministry and mission of York Minster as you leave.

If you worship regularly at York Minster, you are already a member of our community. Please help us know who you are by joining the Community Roll and by subscribing to our weekly notice sheet. Take a look online at yorkminster.org/get-involved/community or ask a steward or a member of the clergy for more information.



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