

Wednesday, June 23, 2021– Christ's Church Cathedral



**A SERVICE OF CHORAL
EVENSONG**

**THE EVE OF THE FEAST
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Officiant: *The Dean*

The Cathedral Schola:

*Sarah McPherson, Richard Cunningham,
Mark Russom, Jeremy Ludwig;*

Organ: *Michael Bloss.*

Choral Evensong offers an opportunity to gather and spend time in prayer while listening and participating in music that is especially selected to bring us into deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith. Traditionally, Choral Evensong is based on the services held daily in the medieval church as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. The liturgical language is more traditional and the choir sings “on behalf” of the congregation when it comes to the canticles, responses and psalms.

The birth of Saint John the Baptist is told in the Gospel according to Luke, where it serves as a bridge between the Old Testament and the time of Christ. The initial focus of Luke’s account is Zechariah the priest and his wife Elizabeth; and the evangelist draws on phrases and motifs from the Old Testament in order to associate them with Abraham and Sarah. Like those ancient figures, the parents of John the Baptist were righteous but childless. Moreover, Elizabeth herself (like Sarah) was well past menopause, so that according to nature she was no longer able to conceive a child. But just as God intervened to make Abraham and Sarah have a child and become the forebears of the chosen people, so an angel announced to righteous Zechariah that he and his wife were to have a son who would be the forerunner of the Chosen One, the Christ. So it came to pass that Elizabeth conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named John. Then his father Zechariah prophesied, saying,

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
 to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

Zechariah also saw that his son's mission would prepare the way for the fulfilment of God's oath,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham,
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 free to worship him without fear,
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.

Thus, according to Luke, the birth of John the Baptist gathered up and embodied the whole truth of the Old Testament and made it ready for its own perfection in Christ Jesus, the One whose way John was born to prepare

Words of Welcome

Introit:

Ut queant laxis

Mode i



Let thine ex - am - ple, ho - ly John, re - mind us, Ere we can meet - ly
 Lo! a swift an - gel, from the skies des - cen - ding, tells to thy Fa - ther
 But when he doubt - ed what the an - gel told him, came to him dumb - ness
 Oh! what a splen - dour and a re - vel - a - tion came to each mo - ther
 An - gels in or - ders ev - er - last - ing praise thee, God in thy tri - une



sing thy deeds of won - der, hearts must be chas - tened,
 what shall be thy nam - ing; all thy life's great - ness
 to con - firm the sto - ry; at thine ap - pear - ing,
 at thy joy - ful leap - ing, greet - ing thy Mon - arch,
 Ma - jes - ty tre - men - dous; Hark to the pray - ers



and the bonds that bind us bro - ken a - sun - der.
 to its bit - ter end - ing du - ly pro - claim - ing.
 healed a - gain be - hold him chan - ting thy glo - ry.
 King of ev - ery - na - tion, in the womb sleep - ing.
 we, pen - i - tents, up - raise thee Save and de - fend us.

Sentence – You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. *Luke 1.76*

The Preces

Rose

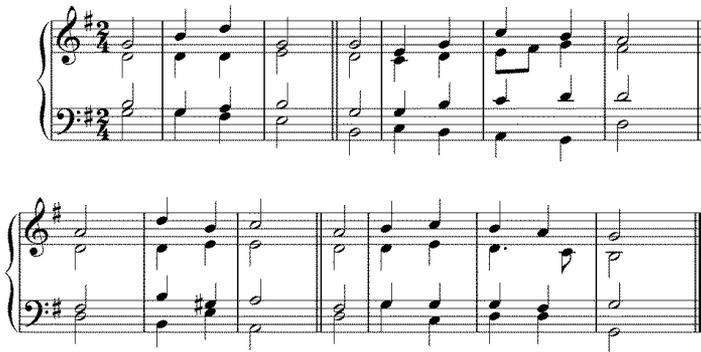
V. O Lord, open thou our lips.
R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

V. O God, make speed to save us.
R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

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

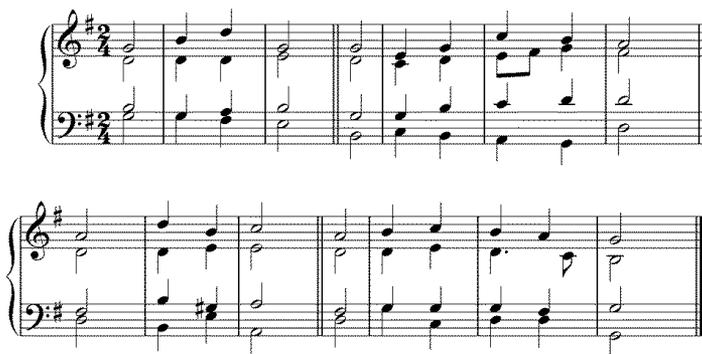
Psalm 68 Pt. 1 (*Exurgat Deus*)



Let God arise, and let his / enemies • be / scattered:
let them also that / hate him / flee be- / fore him.

Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou / drive them • a- / way;
and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish / at the / presence • of / God.

But let the righteous be glad and re- / joice be- • fore / God:
let them / also • be / merry • and / joyful.



O sing unto God, and sing praises / unto • his / Name:
 magnify him that rideth upon the heavens;
 praise him in his Name Jehovah, / and re- / joice be- / fore him.

He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the / cause of • the / widows:
 even God in his / holy / habi- / tation.

He is the God that giveth the desolate a home to dwell in
 and bringeth the prisoners / out of • cap- / tivity;
 but the re- / belli-ous / dwell in / scarceness.

O God, when thou wentest forth be- / fore thy / people,
 when thou wentest / through the / wilder- / ness,

The earth shook, and the heavens poured down rain at the / presence • of / God:
 Sinai also quaked at the presence of God, who / is the / God of / Israel.

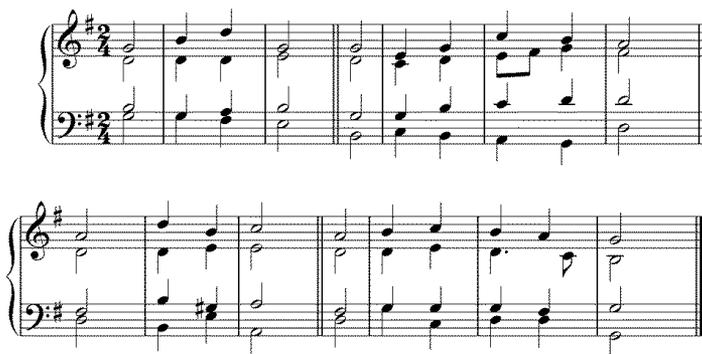
Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon / thine in- / heritance,
 and refreshedst / it when / it was / weary.

Thy congregation / dwelt there- / in;
 for thou, O God, of thy goodness / didst pro- / vide for • the / poor.

The Lord / gave the / word;
 and great was the host of the / women • that / published • the / tidings:

‘Kings with their armies do flee, / lo, they / flee,
 and she that tarrieth at / home di- / videth • the / spoil.

Though ye may lie among the sheep-folds, the wings of a dove are / covered • with
 / silver,
 and her / pinions • with / yellow / gold.



When the Almighty scattered / kings there- / in,
--- / then snow / fell on / Salmon.’

The hill of Bashan is a / mighty / hill;
even an high hill / is the / hill of / Bashan.

Why look ye askance, ye high hills, at the hill which God hath desired for / his a- /
bode?
yea, the LORD will a- / bide in / it for- / ever.

The chariots of God are ten thousands, yea, even / thousands up- •on / thousands;
and the Lord is among them, as in the / holy / place of / Sinai.

Thou art gone up on high, thou hast led captivity captive, and received / gifts a- •
mong / men,
yea, even among the rebellious, that the / LORD God / might dwell / with
them.

Glory be to the Father and / to the / Son;
and / to the / Ho-ly / Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be;
world without / end. A- / --- / men.

The First Lesson (Malachi 3: 1-6)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Magnificat

The Evening Service in b – T. Tertius Noble

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.

The Second Lesson (Matthew 3)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Nunc Dimittis

The Evening Service in b – T. Tertius Noble

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.

The Apostle's Creed

Officiant and People

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 Responses

Rose

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir And with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.

The Choir sings:

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.

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

R. And grant us thy salvation.

V. O Lord, save the Queen.

R. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

R. And make thy chosen people joyful.

V. O Lord, save thy people.

R. And bless thine inheritance.

V. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

V. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

R. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Almighty God, by whose providence thy servant John Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour, by preaching of repentance: Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching, and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; 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 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.**

The Anthem-

Jobannes est nomen eius – Orlando de Lassus

*Joannes est nomen eius: vinum et siceram
non bibet, et in nativitate eius multi
gaudebunt.*

*John is his name: he shall drink no wine or
strong drink, and many shall rejoice at his
birth*

Closing Prayers

Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people the wisdom to see your purpose, and the openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Officiant

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant

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.**

Hymn – Sing We the Praises

TEXT: Paul the Deacon (730-799) *Ut queant laxis resonare fibris*
MUSIC: *Bayeux Antiphoner*, 1739. DIVA SERVATRIX

Sing we the prai - ses of the great fore - run - ner,
Lo, God's high her - ald, swift from heav'n des - cen - ding,
Oft had the pro - phets in the time be - fore thee

tell forth the migh - ty won - ders of his sto - ry:
gives to thy fa - ther ti - dings of thy com - ing,
spo - ken in vis - ion of the Day - star's com - ing;

so may his Mas - ter cleanse our lips and make them
tell - ing thy name and all the tale of mar - vels
but when he came, 'twas thou that didst pro - claim him

fit to ex - tol him.
that shall be - fall thee.
Sa - - viour of all.

Voluntary – Toccata in d

Max Reger

NEXT WEDNESDAY: JUNE 30

A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FERIA

Led by The Dean, Sarah McPherson, John Janisse and Michael Bloss

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