



Monday 28 September 2020

Lighten Our Darkness

A Contemporary Choral Evening Prayer

Officiant
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choral Scholars
of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Gabriella Noble

Accompanied by
Greg Morris

Introit *O quam gloriosum Tomás Luis de Victoria*

*O quam gloriosum est regnum,
in quo, cum Christo, gaudent omnes Sancti;
amicti stolis albis,
sequuntur Agnum quocumque ierit.*

*O how glorious the kingdom
wherein all the Saints rejoice with Christ;
clothed in white robes
they follow the Lamb wherever He goes.*

Welcome

Confession

All My God, for love of you I desire to hate and forsake all sins by which I have ever displeased you; and I resolve by the help of your grace to commit them no more; and to avoid all opportunities of sin. Help me to do this, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Psalm 91.1-9

Old Testament Reading 2 Kings 6.8-17

Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, 'At such and such a place shall be my camp.' But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, 'Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there.' The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert.

The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, 'Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?' Then one of his officers said, 'No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.' He said, 'Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.' He was told, 'He is in Dothan.' So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, 'Alas, master! What shall we do?' He replied, 'Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.' Then Elisha prayed: 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat *Sumsion in A*

New Testament Reading Matthew 18.1-6, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer *Nils Greenhow*

Responses *Nils Greenhow*

*Give us Lord the readiness of Mary,
That we may bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.*

*Renew your Church, Lord God;
And open our eyes to wonders of your kingdom.*

*Govern the hearts of those in authority
And loosen the chains of all who are downtrodden.*

*Dry the tears of your children who grieve
And prepare us all for the hour we breathe no more.*

*Visit your people who live under the curse of war
And show us the paths that lead to peace.*

*O God be our companion forever.
That all our days we may abide in you.*

*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.*

Prayers

ending with:

The Collect for St Michael

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Anthem *Factum est silentium Dering*

*Factum est silentium in coelo,
Dum committeret bellum draco cum Michaele Archangelo.
Audita est vox millia millium dicentium:
Salus, honor et virtus omnipotenti Deo.
Alleluia.*

*There was silence in heaven
When the dragon fought with the Archangel Michael.
The voice of a thousand thousand was heard saying:
Salvation, honour and power be to almighty God.
Alleluia.*

Motet for the feast of Michael the Archangel.

Notices

Hymn

- 1 Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.
- 2 Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
yea, we can.
- 3 Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.
- 4 In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Blessing

Organ Voluntary

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