



Monday 19 October 2020

# Lighten Our Darkness

A Contemporary Choral Evening Prayer  
Luke the Evangelist

Officiant  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

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

Directed by  
Gabriella Noble

Accompanied by  
Ben Giddens

Introit    The Spirit of the Lord    *Edward Elgar*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor:  
He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,  
to preach deliverance to the captives,  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to preach the acceptable year of the Lord;  
To give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes,  
the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
that they might be called trees of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.  
For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,  
and as the garden causeth the things  
that are sown in it to spring forth;  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring forth before all the nations.*

*Isaiah 61. From "The Apostles"*

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 103. 1-10

## Old Testament Reading Ecclesiasticus 38. 1-14

Honour physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired. The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. Was not water made sweet with a tree in order that its power might be known? And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvellous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of choice flour, and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he will grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Magnificat *Sumsion in G*

## New Testament Reading Colossian 4.7-end

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me; he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow-servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts; he is coming with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner greets you, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him. And Jesus who is called Justus greets you. These are the only ones of the circumcision among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is always wrestling in his prayers on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in everything that God wills. For I testify for him that he has worked hard for you and for those in

Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, 'See that you complete the task that you have received in the Lord.'

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

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 *Sasha Johnson Manning*

Responses *Sasha Johnson Manning*

*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 of the day

Almighty God, who called Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please you that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Anthem    Strengthen ye the weak hands    *William Harris*

*The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth;  
and he that is wise will not abhor them.*

*And he hath giv'n men skill,  
that he might be honour'd in his marvellous works.*

*My son, in thy sickness leave off from sin,  
and order thy hands aright,  
and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness.*

*Strengthen ye the weak hands,  
and confirm the feeble knees.*

*Say to them that are of a fearful heart,  
Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come;  
he will come and save you.*

*Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopp'd.*

*Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,  
and the tongue of the dumb shall sing:  
for in the wilderness shall waters break out,  
and streams in the desert.*

*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;  
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*

*It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing:  
the glory of Lebanon shall be giv'n unto it,  
the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
and the excellency of our God.*

*O Saviour of the world,  
who by thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeem'd us,  
Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.*

## Notices

### Hymn

- 1 Immortal love for ever full,  
for ever flowing free,  
for ever shared, for ever whole,  
a never-ebbing sea.
- 2 We may not climb the heavenly steeps  
to bring the Lord Christ down;  
in vain we search the lowest deeps,  
for him no depths can drown:
- 3 But warm, sweet, tender, even yet  
a present help is he;  
and faith has still its olive, tree,  
and love its Galilee.
- 4 The healing of his seamless dress  
is by our beds of pain;  
we touch him in life's throng and press,  
and we are whole again.
- 5 Alone, O love ineffable,  
thy saving name is given;  
to turn aside from thee is hell,  
to walk with thee is heaven.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

### Blessing

Organ Voluntary    *Alla Marcia*    *Ireland*

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