

An Evensong for Easter Day 2020

This service has been compiled mainly from archive recordings from the last 23 years, in different buildings, with some specially recorded material.

The choir sings the Introit – This Joyful Eastertide – arr. Wood – recorded this week in in singers' homes and edited together.

Opening HYMN – Good Christian men rejoice and sing – recorded in St Mary's on Easter Day 2006

Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen for ay;
Bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all mankind rejoice and say:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The choir sings the responses by Richard Ayleward – recorded in Hereford Cathedral – year unknown

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

O God, make speed to save us.
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.

The choir sings Psalm 66 (recorded in Hereford Cathedral in April in 2000)

1 O be joyful in God, all ye lands
sing praises unto the honour of his Name, make his praise to be glorious.
2 Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works
through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies be found liars unto thee.

3 For all the world shall worship thee
sing of thee, and praise thy Name.
4 O come hither, and behold the works of God
how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.

5 He turned the sea into dry land
so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.
6 He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the people
and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.

7 O praise our God, ye people
and make the voice of his praise to be heard.
8 Who holdeth our soul in life
and suffereth not our feet to slip.

9 For thou, O God, hast proved us
thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.
10 Thou broughtest us into the snare
and laidest trouble upon our loins.

11 Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads
we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy
place.
12 I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings
and will pay thee my vows, which I promised with my lips, and spake with my
mouth, when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams
I will offer bullocks and goats.
14 O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God
and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.

15 I called unto him with my mouth
and gave him praises with my tongue.
16 If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart
the Lord will not hear me.

17 But God hath heard me
and considered the voice of my prayer.
18 Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer
nor turned his mercy from me.

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.

Then a Lesson of the Old Testament: Song of Solomon 3:2

As an Office Hymn – recorded in St Mary's in 2006

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
lo he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise
Christ has opened paradise:

Lives again, our glorious king;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted head;
made like him, like him we rise
ours the cross, the grave, the skies:

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
praise to thee by both be given;
thee we greet triumphant now
Hail the resurrection thou!

The choir sings the Magnificat, by Herbert Howells (Collegium Regale) – recorded in Salisbury Cathedral in 2010 by the combined choirs of St Mary's, Ross and Holy Trinity, Hereford)

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.

Then a Lesson of the New Testament: John: 20.11-18

The choir sings the Nunc Dimittis by Herbert Sumsion (in A) – recorded in Hereford Cathedral in 1997

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.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.

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 Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life
everlasting. Amen.

*The choir sings the responses by John Sanders, recorded in Gloucester Cathedral
in 2012*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

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.

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

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then shall follow three Collects: The first of the day: The second for Peace: The third for Aid against all Perils, as hereafter followeth: which two last Collects shall be daily said at Evening Prayer without alteration.

The First collect, for Easter Day

ALMIGHTY God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Second Collect at Evening Prayer

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.**

The Third Collect, for Aid against all 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. **Amen.**

In Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the Anthem.

The Easter Song of Praise (Exultet) – Richard Shephard – Summer 1997, St Mary's Church

The prayers – Sean Semple

We sing the Hymn: Ye choirs of New Jerusalem – 2006

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion bursts His chains,
Crushing the serpent's head;
And cries aloud through death's domains
To wake th'imprison'd dead.

Devouring depths of hell
Their prey at His command restore;
His ransom'd hosts pursue their way
Where Jesus goes before.

Triumphant in His glory now
To Him all power is given;
To Him in one communion bow
All saints in earth and heaven.

While we, His soldiers, praise our King,
His mercy we implore,
Within His palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to Thee,
While endless ages run.

Alleluia! Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal – Naylor (Festal) – 1997 – Dore Abbey

*Closing voluntary: Healey Willan - Chorale Prelude on Vulpius – recorded by
Adrian Taylor, yesterday, at home (or is that Hereford Cathedral again?!)*

*Please join us in the Kings Head for a quick drink after this service – Zoom details
at <https://rawchurch.org.uk/digital-services>*