

Choral Evensong

The Epiphany

5 January 2025

6.00pm



Epiphany

Welcome to Liverpool Parish Church. All are welcome to take part as they feel called. Evensong, which combines the ancient monastic services of Vespers and Compline (evening and night prayer), and has been sung in Cathedrals and Parish Churches all over the country since the sixteenth century.



Organ: The star proclaims the King is here – Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

Please stand, as you are able, as the clergy enter and the choir sings the Introit: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words: Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Priest: Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

All: Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Priest: May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you ✠ pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The preces and responses are sung to a setting by Philip Radcliffe (1905-86)

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir 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.

Office hymn:

**Hail, thou Source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, thy grace possessing,
In thy courts admission find.**

**Once far off, but now invited,
We approach thy sacred throne;
In thy covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.**

**Now revealed to eastern sages,
See the Star of mercy shine,
Mystery hid in former ages,
Mystery great of love divine.**

**Hail, thou universal Saviour!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
In thy temple seek thy favour,
Jesu Christ, our Lord and King.**

Words: Basil Woodd (1760-1831)

Music: 'Redhead No 46' Richard Redhead (1870-1901)

Please sit as the choir sings Psalm 98:

1. O sing unto the Lord a new song * for he hath done marvellous things.
2. With his own right hand, and with his holy arm * hath he gotten himself the victory.
3. The Lord declared his salvation * his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
4. He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel * and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
5. Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands * sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
6. Praise the Lord upon the harp * sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
7. With trumpets also and shawms * O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
8. Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is * the round world, and they that dwell therein.
9. Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord * for he is come to judge the earth.
10. With righteousness shall he judge the world * and the people with equity.

Old Testament Reading (Isaiah 60.1-9)

The choir sings the Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)

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 showed 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.

[we stand for the Gloria Patri]

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.

Music: Evening Service in C—Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

New Testament Reading (John 2.1-11)

The choir sings Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32)

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.

[we stand for the Gloria Patri]

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.

Music: Evening Service in C—Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Please remain standing to say 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 Catholick Church;
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Cantor The Lord be with you

Choir And with thy spirit

Cantor Let us pray.

[please 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.

O Lord, save the King
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.

The Collect of the Day:

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Second Collect, for Peace:

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.

The choir sings the Anthem:

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more, but enter with our gift; Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold; Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head; All for the child that stirs not in His sleep, but holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed, for each He has a gift; See how His eyes awake, Lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.

Words: Frances Chesterton (1869-1938)

Music: Herbert Norman Howells (1892-1983)

Sermon— Mthr Jennifer Brady

Please kneel for the prayers:

The Grace: **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.**

Please stand to sing the hymn during which a collection is taken:

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

Words: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-75)

Music: 'Was Lebet' Melody from Rheinhardt manuscript (1754)

The Blessing:

... and the ✠blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ: Trumpet Tune – Andrew Carter (Born 1939)

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