

## Choral Evensong

### Sunday after Ascension

1 June 2025

6.00pm



*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.*



*The Introit, Canticles and Anthem in this service celebrate the  
400th anniversary of the death of Orlando Gibbons  
5th June 1625*

*Organ: Intermezzo – Ian Higginson (Born 1959)*

*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 Richard Ayleward (1626-69)*

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:*

**O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,  
Redemption's only spring;  
Creator of the world art thou,  
Its Saviour and its King**

**How vast the mercy and the love  
Which laid our sins on thee,  
And led thee to a cruel death  
To set thy people free.**

**But now the bonds of death are burst,  
The ransom has been paid;  
And thou art on thy Father's throne  
In glorious robes arrayed.**

**O may thy mighty love prevail  
Our sinful souls to spare;  
O may we come before thy throne,  
And find acceptance there.**

**O Christ, be thou our present joy  
Our future great reward;  
Our only glory may it be  
To glory in the Lord.**

**All praise to thee, ascended Lord;  
All glory ever be  
To Father, son, and Holy Ghost,  
Through all eternity. Amen.**

*Words: Latin c8th century translated John Chandler (1806-76)*

*Music: 'Metzler's Redhead No.66' Richard Redhead (1820-1901)*

*Please sit as the choir sings Psalm 68.1-10*

1. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered \* let them also that hate him flee before him.
2. Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away \* and like as wax melteth at the fire, so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.
3. But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God \* let them also be merry and joyful.
4. O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name \* magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon an horse; praise him in his Name JAH and rejoice before him.
5. He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows \* even God in his holy habitation.
6. He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house, and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity \* but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.
7. O God, when thou wentest forth before the people \* when thou wentest through the wilderness;
8. The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God \* even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.
9. Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance \* and refreshedst it when it was weary.
10. Thy congregation shall dwell therein \* for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor.

*[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

### **Old Testament Reading (Isaiah 44.1-8)**

*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: Short Evening Service—Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

### **New Testament Reading (Ephesians 4.7-16)**

*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: Short Evening Service—Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

*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 the King of Glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. 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:*

Great Lord of Lords, supreme immortal King, O give us grace to sing thy praise, which makes earth, air and heav'n to ring.

O Word of God from ages unbegun, the Father's only Son, with Him in pow'r, in substance, Thou art One.

O Holy Ghost, whose care doth all embrace, thy watch is o'er our race, Thou source of life, Thou spring of peace and grace.

One living Trinity, one unseen light, The earth is Thine; thy light beholds alike the bounds of depth and height. Amen

*Words: Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)*

*Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

*Sermon—* Revd Michelle Montrose

*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:*

**The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now:**

**A royal diadem adorns the mighty victor's brow.**

**The highest place that heaven affords is his, is his by right,  
The King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's eternal light;**

**The joy all of all who dwell above, the joy of all below,  
To whom he manifests his love and grants his name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame. with all its grace is given:  
Their name an everlasting name, their joy the joy of heaven.**

**They suffer with their Lord below, they reign with him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know the mystery of his love.**

**The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him;**

**His people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme.**

*Words: Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)*

*Music: 'St Magnus' Jeremiah Clarke (c1673-1707)*

*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: Pasticcio (from the Organ Book) – Jean Langlais (1907-1991)*

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